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OVERSTREET'S Price Update

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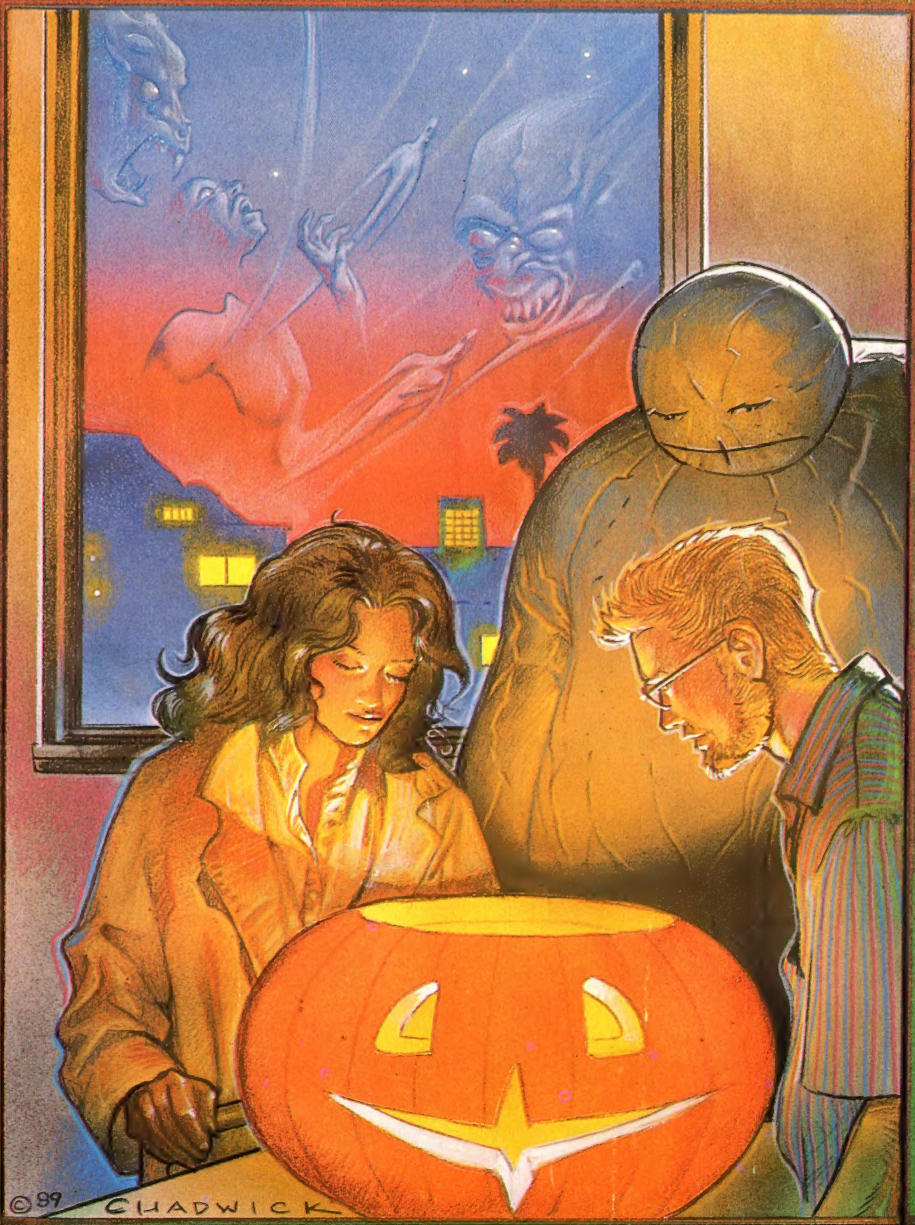
- Latest Hot Titles
- Regional Market Reports
- "What's Hot & What's Not" Reports
- Fully Illustrated



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THE OVERSTREET UPDATE

GENERAL INFORMATION

About Pricing - The prices shown in this guide represent an honest and responsible evaluation of current market values. The prices represent an average of dealer retail prices compiled from data supplied by our Board Of Special Advisors. Prices often vary widely from region to region because supply and demand varies. Therefore, each seller should determine prices based in part by using this guide, and also by understanding his/her regional supply and demand factors.

WHAT THESE PRICES ARE: The prices in this Update, particularly on more expensive books, are a Moving Average of the market prices realized over the last 12 months. Barrons "Dictionary Of Investment Terms" defines "Moving Average" as follows: "The average price of a security" (in this case comic books) " constructed on a period as short as a few days or as long as several years and including trends for the latest interval". For example, a one year moving average includes last year's figures as well as the most recent; each time the average is re-computed, it will include the most recent figures and will no longer include those for the earliest date included in the prior average. Thus every Update picks up figures for the latest quarter and drops those for the earliest, then a new average is computed. It is important for collectors to understand that since the Update Price is a moving average, it will never be the same as the highest or most recent sales price. Thus, by using this type of market average, dramatic and radical price changes upward or downward are avoided. The result is a more stabilized market. For most recent documented sales reports and actual sales prices for the most recent period, refer to our Sales Index Section.

When buying collections, dealers will normally pay 1/4 to 3/4 of this Guide value based on inventory needs and local market conditions.

PRICING LOWER GRADES

Prices listed in this Guide are for comic books in NEAR MINT condition. The value of a comic in a lower grade can be determined by multiplying the price shown by the appropriate percentage as shown below using the SAME PERCENTAGES for that issue as shown in The Official Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide:

Near Mint =	100%
Very Fine =	70 - 75%
Fine =	40 - 45%
Very Good =	30%
Good =	10 - 15%

OVERSTREET GRADING GUIDELINES

Please note: Age is not a factor when grading comic books. A 30 year old comic book should be graded with the same criteria as a 1 year old comic book.

Mint- Like new, perfect in every way.

Near Mint - Almost flawless, only the slightest, most unobtrusive signs of wear, noticeable only upon very close inspection. Page color should be creamy to white.

Very Fine - Excellent, superb condition with insignificant wear and possibly a very minor, light crease. No browning. Very nearly mint.

Fine - Tight, sharp copy with significant wear, but still flat, clean and shiny. Any chips, tears or flakes should be carefully described. No writing except perhaps a light arrival date on the covers. Only a minor, light crease is allowed. No brown pages. Pleasing in appearance without much general wear.

Very Good- Obviously a used copy with most original printing lustre and gloss gone. Some discoloration is permitted, but no soiling. Some signs of wear and minor markings, but none that deface the cover. No chunks missing, no tape or heavy writing. Any other minor defects such as chipping or flaking should be described.

Good- A worn and heavily read copy with no pages missing. Soiling, creases, minor tears or splits, color flaking, etc. is permissable. A sound and complete copy that is very worn.

SYMBOLS USED

The following symbols will be used to designate various market activity:

+ The issue or issues have gone up in value since last Bulletin.

- The issue or issues have gone down in value since last Bulletin.

H (HOT) Indicates a title or issue that is currently in high demand.

Welcome to another edition of The Overstreet Update. The market has really been roaring the last couple of months and we have numerous market reports from around the country (and the world) to bring you up-to-date on what has been going on. But first I'd like to pop the cork and celebrate the record breaking sales of our Summer Update. It broke our all-time record for circulation! This truly speaks for the state of the market when everyone is interested in current market prices. No surprise either, really, when you consider some of the rapid price increases of this year. I'm not going to put my two cents in and tell you that Silver Age is hot, etc. etc. - you will have read about it enough by the time you finish these reports.

We had so much appreciative response to last issue's Punisher checklist that we thought you readers would enjoy another checklist - this time a cumulative index to the first years of Marvel Super Heroes. Compiled by Dr. Keith Contarino. Thanks, Keith, for taking the time to do what we had all wondered about but never bothered doing.

After Keith's checklist, we catch up on some correspondence. Be sure to read and let us know what you think. You can write me directly with your comments at Jon Warren, P.O. Box 2512, Chattanooga, TN 37409. Sorry, but we can't publish all the letters we get, nor can we write back to everyone.

MARVEL COMICS COVER DATES FROM FANTASTIC FOUR #1 - DAREDEVIL #1 COMPILED BY J. KEITH CONTARINO

The period from Fantastic Four #1 until Daredevil #1 is arguably the most important in comic book history. What follows is month-by-month cover dates of all issues published during the Marvel explosion.

November 1961
Fantastic Four #1 (10 cent cover)

January 1962
Fantastic Four #2 (10 cent cover)
Tales To Astonish #27 (12 cent cover price begins - WHAT!!!)

March 1962
Fantastic Four #3

May 1962
Fantastic Four #4
Incredible Hulk #1

July 1962
Fantastic Four #5
Incredible Hulk #2

August 1962
Amazing Fantasy #15
Fantastic Four #6
Journey Into Mystery #83

September 1962
Fantastic Four #7
Incredible Hulk #3
Journey Into Mystery #84
Tales To Astonish #35

October 1962
Fantastic Four #8
Journey Into Mystery #85
Strange Tales #101
Tales To Astonish #36

November 1962
Fantastic Four #9
Incredible Hulk #4
Journey Into Mystery #86
Strange Tales #102
Tales To Astonish #37

December 1962
Fantastic Four #10
Incredible Hulk #5
Journey Into Mystery #87
Strange Tales #103
Tales To Astonish #38

January 1963
Fantastic Four #11
Incredible Hulk #6
Journey Into Mystery #88
Strange Tales #104
Tales To Astonish #39

February 1963
Fantastic Four #12
Journey Into Mystery #89
Strange Tales #105
Tales To Astonish #40

March 1963
Amazing Spider-Man #1
Fantastic Four #13
Incredible Hulk #6
Journey Into Mystery #90
Strange Tales #106
Tales Of Suspense #39
Tales To Astonish #41

April 1963
Fantastic Four #14
Journey Into Mystery #91
Strange Tales #107
Tales Of Suspense #40
Tales To Astonish #42

May 1963
Amazing Spider-Man #2
Fantastic Four #15
Journey Into Mystery #92
Sgt. Fury #1
Strange Tales #108
Tales Of Suspense #41
Tales To Astonish #43

June 1963
Fantastic Four #16
Journey Into Mystery #93
Strange Tales #109
Tales Of Suspense #42
Tales To Astonish #44

July 1963
Amazing Spider-Man #3
Fantastic Four #17
Journey Into Mystery #94
Sgt. Fury #2
Strange Tales #110
Tales Of Suspense #43
Tales To Astonish #45
Strange Tales Annual #2
Fantastic Four Annual #1

August 1963
Fantastic Four #18
Journey Into Mystery #95
Strange Tales #111
Tales Of Suspense #44
Tales To Astonish #46

September 1963
Amazing Spider-Man #4
Avengers #1
Fantastic Four #19
Journey Into Mystery #96
Sgt. Fury #3
Strange Tales #112
Tales Of Suspense #45
Tales To Astonish #47
X-Men #1

October 1963
Amazing Spider-Man #5
Fantastic Four #20
Journey Into Mystery #97
Strange Tales #113
Tales Of Suspense #46
Tales To Astonish #48

November 1963
Amazing Spider-Man #6
Avengers #2
Fantastic Four #21
Journey Into Mystery #98
Sgt. Fury #4
Strange Tales #114
Tales Of Suspense #47
Tales To Astonish #49
X-Men #2

December 1963
Amazing Spider-Man #7
Fantastic Four #22
Journey Into Mystery #99
Strange Tales #115
Tales Of Suspense #48
Tales To Astonish #50

January 1964
Amazing Spider-Man #8
Avengers #3
Fantastic Four #23
Journey Into Mystery #100
Sgt. Fury #5
Strange Tales #116
Tales Of Suspense #49
Tales To Astonish #51
X-Men #3

February 1964
Amazing Spider-Man #9
Fantastic Four #24
Journey Into Mystery #101
Strange Tales #117
Tales Of Suspense #50
Tales To Astonish #52

March 1964
Amazing Spider-Man #10
Avengers #4
Fantastic Four #25
Journey Into Mystery #102
Sgt. Fury #6
Strange Tales #118
Tales Of Suspense #51
Tales To Astonish #53
X-Men #4

April 1964
Amazing Spider-Man #11
Daredevil #1
Fantastic Four #26
Journey Into Mystery #103
Strange Tales #119
Tales Of Suspense #52
Tales To Astonish #54

There you have it. Pick your favorite month and then argue with someone about it. My personal favorite is March, 1963—Spidey #1, first Iron Man, last Hulk, 1st appearance of the Red Ghost, 1st Appearance of The Watcher, a good Strange Tales issue, and my favorite Thor story —Carbon Copy Man.

Thanks Keith. Now, the following are some letters that have accumulated lately. I thought they would be interesting to everyone, so here goes:

Christopher D. Jackson of Burbank, CA supplied us with this information regarding second prints of Dark Knight:

For your reference, the following will help distinguish first from second prints of the Dark Knight #2. DC did not print "second print" on any copies of that particular book and you have to look for other signs to distinguish.

1. Flesh on exposed upper arm and face on cover.
   1st print - flesh more pinkish
   2nd print - flesh much paler than first print
2. Grey color at top and bottom of inside front cover (portions that are not part of bat symbol)
   1st print - Grey much lighter than second print. The color will almost match the grey on the facing page

2nd print - Grey much darker than first print. Also, much darker than grey on the facing page.
3. Shadow of grey around bat symbol on inside front cover.

1st print - the light grey above and below the bat-symbol on the inside front cover is separated from the black of the batsymbol itself by a very thin, narrow shadow of slightly darker grey

2nd print - there is no shadow. There is a clear, distinct line separating the black of the batsymbol from the somewhat dark grey above and below it on the inside front cover.

It amazes me how many people I find who deal relatively heavily in comics and who do not know of this slight anomaly. Obviously it makes a significant difference in value of books.

Thanks Chris, it most certainly does make a substantial difference in the value of the comic. I wonder how many collectors out there have paid first print prices for second printings?

Here's another letter from a reader:

Dear Mr. Warren (and Staff),

I have a question about some comics that you may be able to answer. The following are the comics:

FAUST #1 - Signed & Numbered by Northstar Publishing
OMEGA #1 - Signed & Numbered by Northstar Publishing
NORTHSTAR #1 - Signed & Numbered by Northstar Publishing
OMEGA #1 - by Rebel Studios

The question on the first 3 is how can they be priced at $25 to $75 (as advertised in "C.B.G.") yet not even listed in your guides? Do they really have this type of value or are these sellers ridiculous? The second question is if Tim Virgil is a "hot" artist, shouldn't this early production by Rebel Studios have value?

The reason for both questions is I have all 4 of these issues and I am curious as to their true value. Although I have no intention of selling these at the present time, I would like some idea where they really are in the comic market. If you are able to respond, I have enclosed a SASE. IF you can not (I realize you have a lot of work to do), could you make some reference to these issues in the next guide?

Thank you,

Tony Sansone

Well Tony, that's a tough one to explain, but I'll try. First, we don't have complete information on every comic book that has ever been printed. For years we tried, but when the black and white publishing phenomena began we quickly learned that we couldn't keep up with everything. Just because a comic isn't

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listed in the Update doesn't necessarily mean it isn't worth anything. But it does probably mean that it is pretty obscure and therefore not widely traded on the market. In the final analysis, rare books such as those you mention are worth whatever someone will pay for them - thus the high prices you see being asked for them.

Another reader wrote:

Mr. Warren - I'm new to comic collecting (3 months) so forgive me if you've heard this before...

Keith Contarino's views regarding mail order grading integrity really struck a nerve with me. Though new to collecting I sorta' jumped in with both feet--buying "several" high quality key silver age Marvels. Most of the purchases were done via mail order as the books I wanted simply weren't available locally. So far I've been happy with the books I've received but after reading Mr. Contarino's article maybe I'm not happy. How does a non-expert tell the difference between a near mint - near mint minus - VF plus - VF? Is just one light crease or flake in the spine still near mint? Are two flakes still near mint? Are two light stress creases and one flake near 'mint minus'? The point is at what point do the upper grades change? (I understand there is more to the grading than the cover but on the high grade books I'm seeing the inner pages are all basically the same--it is really the coming down to the cover for the final grade.) It seems to me one man's near mint could very well be another's VF or VF plus...which brings me back to Mr. Contarino's article--How can anyone detect a book that's been over-graded a "half grade"? Though I've only been collecting 3 months, I've probably collected a few years worth of opinions (I've talked to over 100 dealers over the phone since July alone) and what I've come up with is very few people agree on anything...especially what is a fair price and what is gouging. So far I've only bought books from people I've been referred to (a few of those books I showed some local dealers and they more or less agreed with the grade even though they felt I paid too much for the books--If they had had them the price wouldn't have been that high and so on) figuring if someone in the business says "give these guys a call, they might have the book" they can't be that bad, or can they?

Anyway, the above has been a long-winded concern--now my brief solution: setting up an "impartial" organization to grade books. A comic industry division that is highly "impartial" (and I mean impartial) where collectors could send off books to be graded...personally, if I'm going to invest $1,400 in a near mint/ mint Ikik #1 or some other dollar amount in another key book, I'd feel a lot better if I had an opinion that "really" counted. What I've found is after a while dealers get tired of offering their opinion on someone else's books and begin to "nit pic" which is why I feel some impartial office or council on grading needs to be established. I know if I'm buying a $500 or $1,000 or whatever book, I wouldn't mind at all maybe spending another $25 to have the book "certified" or "registered" by the council as near mint or VF or whatever. Tell me, who wouldn't spend the money? Besides maybe cleaning up the industry a bit. Think about how much more accurate the Updates would be...eventually you may even be able to get an idea of how many key books are out there. At this point, you just can't be sure you're getting all the transactions or even the real key books--who's to say a mint Fantastic Four#1 wasn't just found in some trunk and sold to a local store who in turn sold it to the guy down the street. What I'm suggesting is something like a calibration service...you send in the book and it gets graded and a seal or stamp goes with it. When the books change hands, the buyer can review the book and stamp and if he feels the book has had some wear since, send it off again to have it rechecked. The point is, we're not talking money, we're only talking grade; whether or not someone pays a higher price for a VF than somebody yesterday paid for a near mint of the same book doesn't matter. After all---if somebody wants to pay triple guide for a VF book, that's his concern---what I'm saying is, let's make sure the guy "knows" it's a VF book. Well, did I say my solution was going to be brief?

Thank you very much for your time in reading this...I appreciate it very much.

Sincerely -

Phillip Caires

Whew! Boy did you open up a can of worms! Your not the first one (and not the last) to suggest an "impartial" grading service. And your question about + and - in high grade books is a real problem too. Basically, one's ability to identify a NM+ Spidy 1 from a NM- one comes from years of seeing high grade Spidy 1's. In other words, from learning from experience what represents a truly exceptional Spidy 1. You didn't even bring up the problem of professional repair and how badly (and I mean BADLY) it affects the value of an otherwise high grade book. I recommend that, when splitting hairs, be on the safe side. Call a NM+ just NM and a NM- just VF+ or VFNM. But that still doesn't solve the problem of a VF+ being called NM+. And then there is the problem of being TOO picky because you don't reasonably know what to expect as acceptable minute flaws on a rare comic. But it is better to be safe than sorry. I say KNOW WHO YOU ARE DEALING WITH! And if you are not completely satisfied, get a second opinion and exercise your RETURN PRIVILEGE if you decide the grade isn't right. Don't deal with a dealer who doesn't offer a NO QUESTIONS ASKED return privilege within 10 days to 2 weeks.

As for an impartial grading service - many dealers and collectors have suggested that Overstreet set up a grading service. But I just don't think it will ever happen. We're too busy as it is! Besides that, how impartial could we really be? I mean, I feel that I'm as strict a grader (probably too strict) as there is in the hobby. But since I deal in rare comics through American Collectibles Exchange I couldn't be called an "impartial" grader. And I sure as heck can make more money selling rare comics than I can grading them (even at $25 a pop), so I don't think I can be convinced to stop dealing... The problem of accurate grading is the most serious dilemma we face in the hobby today. The lack of ethics in grading threatens the future growth of our hobby. I have looked at this thing upside and down, and I don't see a solution in the near future. There is talk of an Overstreet Grading book, which may or may not ever happen. I have heard requests for a grading video - but that won't work either. We at Overstreet Publications do plan to write a comprehensive re-definition and clarification of the grading section of the Big Book next year. But we don't plan to start a grading service. And if anyone else starts up a grading service (which I've heard rumors to that effect) I would really question their qualifications. I mean, who knows if Joe Schmoe from Bumble, Indiana really knows what he's talking about!

As a compromise (but certainly not even close to a solution), and only in order to reduce the amount of fraud that is occurring in the market, I would be happy to give my opinion - FREE OF CHARGE - on any major comic book purchase that you or anyone else out there might be considering. Don't tell me who you are buying the book from or how much you are paying cuz I wouldn't want to know. But I will give you an accurate and complete description and grade of the book. You can call me to discuss this further. My qualifications are well know, but what I might not be as well known is that I am an associate member of the International Society Of Appraisers and am fully qualified to make examinations of this kind. I don't want to be paid because I don't want to be accused of "starting my own grading service". But I do want to stop misrepresentation in the market. I'm sure any other major (and reputable) dealer in the rare comic book market would extend this same offer. I would also like to state that I don't want every collector in the U.S.A. to start sending me books to grade. If you have a problem, call me at 1-615-821-8121 during business hours. I will extend this offer on a case by case basis only.

Rob A. Ronin
Escondido, CA

Dear Jon,

For your Update, I recently purchased a beautiful NM and Fantasy 15 for $5,000; and several NM and early

Spidys out of the Olshevsky collection at 150% of NM Guide. They were high-gloss, immaculate books with white pages. I understand the balance of the collection is moving very quickly.

Thanks for the sales report Rob. Before collectors rush to ask why Amazing Fantasy 15 isn't now $5000 in the Update they should read the explanation of our pricing policies on the title page of this issue.

Mr. Overstreet, Mr. Warren & Co.,

I have some comments I'd like to make about your June 88 update.

First, in the "What's Hot-What's Not" section of the update, Keith Contarino states in his Southeast market report that many collectors are coming to view T.O.S. #58 or #59 as the true Captain America #1, of the Silver Age. These collectors must be overlooking Avengers #4. Shouldn't Avengers #4 be considered the true Captain America #1 of the Silver Age?
Also, in the market reports, Rich and Howard of Comics & Records Unlimited stated that there was speculative interest in Green Lantern #45 and Atom #29. I believe that there is a good cause for interest in these two issues. Flash #129 is the second appearance of the Golden Age Flash in the Silver Age, and is listed at a significantly higher price than the surrounding issues in the run. Green Lantern #45 is the second appearance of the Golden Age Green Lantern in the Silver Age and, as such, a price increase is in order for this issue. The same is true of Atom #29 and #36 (the first and second appearances of G.A. Atom in the Silver Age).

Thanks for reading,

Jeremy Temple
Ridgecrest, CA

Avengers 4 is the first appearance of Cap in the Silver Age, while Tales Of Suspense 58 is the beginning of the first Captain America series in the Silver Age. Avengers 4 has always been expensive because of the Cap appearance while the also-early T.O.S. 58 has been under $10 until this year.
You are right about the Green Lantern 45 and the Atom 29 but we here at pricing headquarters must wait for the market to speak. No one has reported higher prices on these issues yet.

I am writing to try to find our your reason for pricing the Man of Steel giveaway edition so low. Wheg I first saw it, I thought that maybe it was a typographical error, so I checked last year's edition. Sure enough. There it was at $2 in mint condition. I can't remember exactly how many copies were made, but i know that it was a very limited amount. I know of nobody who bought their copy for $2.00 and I know of nobody who would sell it for such a ridiculously low price. You even have the regular edition for $35. Something seems wrong here.

I know you base your prices on market research, but all the copies I have heard of sold for around $50, a far cry from $2. Please recheck your information on this truly rare comic.

Thank you for listening and until next time.

Chris Campbell
Great Falls, MT

Sorry but we haven't heard of or seen a copy for sale at those kind of prices. Maybe you are right. Can anyone back these prices up for Chris?

Dear Jon Warren,

Here is some info for your guide.

I think Amazing Spider-Man #134 should be the 2nd app. of the Punisher since Incredible Hulk #180 is the first app. of Wolverine (both are cameo appearances).

I think Marvel Double Feature and Giant-Size Super Stars #1 (Thing-Hulk Battle) should be in the Update.
I think Defenders #10 should be stated as being a Thor-Hulk battle issue (it's literally impossible to find a copy of it anywhere in the Bay Area), and I think Journey into Mystery #112 should be, too.
The Sub-Mariner begins in Tales to Astonish #70.
Fantastic Four #33 is the first app. of Attuma.
Fantastic Four #88 is the last 12 cent issue.
Incredible Hulk #359 is not a Wolverine App. issue (it's an Illusion of Wolverine).

Thank you,

Sean Budde
Redwood City, CA

Thank you, Sean, for the information. I know that technically Spidy 134 is the second appearance, but... it shouldn't be priced the same as Spidy 135, and I don't like calling cameo appearances a full-fledged appearance.

Thanks to everyone who wrote. I appreciate your comments. Now, rather than go into my personal interpretation of the current market, I will let our excellent Pricing Advisors do their thing. Here follows the Market Reports.

Thanks for reading!

Jon Warren

MARKET REPORTS

Dennis Behrend * Back Issues Specialist
Golden Age Collectibles
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The price increases of new comics has been a focus of our last few Market Reports, and is a topic which deserves some additional comment. While total sales of new comic books may be the same or even greater since before this years' price increases, the fact of the matter is that lower high price comic books are being sold. The price limit for most comic buyers appears to be $1.50. Any comic which costs below $1.00 is more likely to sell in greater quantities than those priced $1.50 or more. New comic sales may be good, but most of the sales come from those comics priced less than $1.50. Thus, more copies of Spider-Man are being sold at $1.00 each than new issues of The Question at $1.75. The threat to the comic market is that with more and more expensive comics being released, comic buyers will not have enough money to purchase all of what is being published. An excellent example of this was the prestige format glut last December. When the comic market is deluged with things like prestige format comics and expensive hardbacks, comic buyers cannot afford to buy it all. What the publishers need to realize (especially DC and Marvel) is that more new comics can be sold if they are at a low price that will encourage comic buyers to purchase issues they might otherwise pass over.

1989 may well be remembered as the year of the Silver Age Panic. The hunt for near mint/mint Silver Age comics began in earnest two and a half years ago. Since then, most high grade Silver Age comics have already been bought up by collectors and investors. The current dilemma is that everyone wants high grade Silver Age comics, but few people are selling them. There is a big demand and an increasingly smaller supply. If the scarcity of near mint/mint Silver Age comics persists, many collectors could begin to lose patience in paying high prices to obtain these comics and turn their attention elsewhere. The direction of the Silver Age market over the next year should prove very interesting.

Although Batman continues to be the dominating force in 1989, the power of the Caped crusader to command the

comic book market is beginning to subside. Since the beginning of this Spring, Bat-hysteria began to overtake comic readers and non-comic readers. However, Bat-hysteria reached its fevered pitch on June 23. Once the Batman movie premiered, the rage of Batman began to calm, and since mid-July, began to subside. This is not to say that Batman's popularity has come to a standstill, but merely slowing down from what it has been. Consequently, prices on most back issues of Batman have levelled off, although prices on the more collectable issues of Batman (i.e., #251, #400, $404, etc.) are showing gradual price increases. Nevertheless, the momentum of Batman's popularity is strong enough to carry comic sales of the Caped crusader to the end of the year. Batman: Year Three (#'s 436-439) is a bigger success than anticipated. All issues sold out within two weeks, and back issues of this four part series continue to sell at a fast pace. Expect a big demand for the 5-part "A Lonely Place Of Dying" story, since this will be the story-line which introduces the new Robin. The "Gotham By Gaslight" one-shot looks to be one of the most intriguing stories of the year, and will probably attract many non-comic collectors.

There are almost no guarantees of a collector's item, but it is a pretty safe bet that the Arkham Asylum hardback will be a big seller for several reasons. First, it features Batman and the Joker. Second, it is a hardback. Third, it contains 164 pages of story. Fourth, it is written by Grant Morrison. Fifth, the hardback edition of "Batman: Son of the Demon" has tripled in value since its original release, and so many comic buyers will speculate a similar success for Arkham Asylum. With all this going for it, Arkham Asylum will be well worth the $24.95 price tag.

The probable success of Arkham Asylum could be just the thing to catapult writer Grant Morrison. If comic readers take notice of Morrison's writing in Arkham Asylum, we could see more people buying current and back issues of his other work in Animal Man and Doom Patrol. Readership is already gaining for both Animal Man and Doom Patrol, and it appears that a matter of time before Morrison is an established name in the comic industry.

Two other DC titles which continue to attract large audiences are Hellblazer and Sandman. New issues of these two comic books continue to sell out, and back issues are becoming harder and harder to keep in stock.

For the first time in countless years, people are getting excited about Superman. Since the "Superman in Space" and "Eradicator" mini-series, comic readers have taken an interest in the current adventures of the Man of Steel. After too many years of poor stories and extra emphasis to Batcomics, it is refreshing to see comic books' premier hero regain some fan interest.

An unexpected surprise is The Shadow Strikes!, the first issue of which sold out within just a few weeks. This is surprising in that the previous Shadow series sold poorly. Also, there has been a recent upsurge in the demand for back issues of the Michael Kaluta issues in the 1973 Shadow series.

Justice League America/International remains a top seller, but the new Justice League Europe is not faring as well as its counterpart. This seems strange as many comic readers seem to enjoy the JLE stories more than the JLA stories.

There is little doubt among collectors and investors that Spider-Man is the way of the future. Within the last few years, more and more comic readers are buying Spider-Man. Why is Spider-Man more popular now than he was a few years ago? Possibly because of Superman's 50th Anniversary, at which time some comic collectors began to speculate that early issues of Spider-Man would see a tremendous increase in value by his 50th Anniversary. Thus, early back issues of Spider-Man #1-#50 are the first time to most readers, and are a scarce commodity. Also, back issues of Spider-Man drawn by Todd McFarlane are very popular and difficult to keep in stock. New issue sales are exceptionally high for all three Spider-Man titles, and final issues of both Peter Parker: The Spectacular Spider-Man and Web Of Spider-Man are also popular collectors' items.

Spider-Man #129 may very well be the most phenomenal comic of the decade! Of the last three issues we had in stock, we sold the first one hour after we got it on display, the second copy we sold the next day, and the third copy we sold before we could even put it out on display. However, it appears this comic is reaching a breaking point and it is unlikely the price for a mint copy will surpass $200.

X-Men remains the top selling titles. While sales are steady for all back issues of the X-Men, most collectors and investors are turning to the acquisition of recent back issues which are still relatively inexpensive. Particular issues of interest include X-Men #'s 171 (Rogue joins), 185 (Storm loses powers), 193 (100th anniversary of new X-Men, double size), 200 (double size), 205 (Wolverine solo story illustrated by Barry Smith), 210-212 ("Mutant Massacre" story-line), 213 (Mutant Massacre, Psylocke joins), 214 (Dazzler joins, illustrated by Barry Smith), 218 (Arthur Adams cover), 219 (Hawok rejoins), 222 (Wolverine vs. Sabertooth), and 225-227 ("Fall of the Mutants" story-line).

When it first began a year ago, the Wolverine series met with very slow sales. Now, current issues sell out and we can't even restock back issues fast enough to match their demand. Critically speaking, there is little doubt that the story and art of the first 16 Wolverine issues was very poor. However, quality is not always the key criteria for collectibility. Wolverine #17, featuring the start of John Byrne's issues will meet with similar success.

Sales on new and old issues of Classic X-Men and Excalibur remain extremely high. Sales on new issues of X-Factor have been surprisingly slow, especially after featuring stories illustrated by Rob Liefeld, Arthur Adams, and Paul Smith.

The only "Mutant" comic which is not selling is the New Mutants. However, this could all change when artist Rob Liefeld begins his tenure with this title. Hopefully, Liefeld's artwork can revive fan interest in this series.

Whether they buy it or steal it, people just love back issues of the Punisher. The first issues of the Punisher mini-series, the Punisher regular series, and Punisher War Journal are all in high demand. The "Punisher: Return to Big Nothing" hardback sold out within a few days and the hardback "Punisher: Intruder" is also selling very well. Keep a watchful eye on Punisher #14, which features a drug overdose cover, and has developed a strong collectors' interest for this very factor.

Can Walt Simonson return the Fantastic Four to glory? In the past, Simonson has been able to revitalize poor selling comics, but his preliminary artwork for the Fantastic Four does not look as sharp as it has before. This one is a very hard call to make. Whether or not Simonson can breathe new life into the Fantastic Four remains to be seen, but there are lots of "imaginary" fill-in stories, almost any creative change is sure to renew interest.

Captain America is beginning to regain some interest as he approaches his 50th Anniversary. There is a gradual increase in sales of both new and back issues of Captain America. Issue #100 of Captain America is our most popularly requested back issue, and we are now receiving an average of three phone calls a day for this particular issue.

After a few months of publication, Marvel's six new comic titles are meeting with mixed results. The first issue of Nth Man sold out, but interest in subsequent issues has dropped dramatically. The new Nick Fury Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. also sold well for the first few issues, but later issues have been selling slowly. Sales on Cloaster have been sluggish since issue #1 and any future success for this series is unlikely. The new What If...? series is a big hit, which is little surprise since the old What If...? series has always been a popular back issue item. Initial sales for Moon Knight and the She-Hulk series were good, although sales on recent issues have leveled off.

Most of the new Japanese comic adaptations continue to sell extremely well. Akira remains a sell out success, and the number of people who call us for it grows every month. Dirty Pair #1 is also a sell out success. Although the first Dirty Pair series sold slowly when it was first released, back issue sales for this comic are exceptional. Other Japanese titles selling well include Appleseed, Grey, Nausicaa, and Outlanders.

The new Predator series from Dark Horse has turned out to be a bigger success than originally anticipated! The first issue has sold out and the back issue demand for this comic is very high.

Sales are steady for back issues of the first Aliens mini-series and issue #1 of the second Aliens mini-series has sold out.

Tapping The Vein, the comic book adaptation of Clive Barker's "Books of Blood" may be the publishing event of the year. We received two orders of this comic and both sold out within hours after their arrival. This is extraordinary considering that this comic carried a $6.95 price. Both comic readers and Clive Barker fans were eager to buy this comic, and it will be interesting to see the direction this comic takes in the back issue market.

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles still retain their status as the best selling independent comic book. Both the regular TMNT series and the TMNT Adventures series sell extremely well. What is strange about the TMNT comics is that they sell better as back issues than as new issues.

The Tick is steadily growing in popularity and first prints of issues #1 and #2 are very hard to find. New issues of The Tick sell out very quickly and there is a steady demand for back issues of this title.

Another comic gaining a strong following is Reid Fleming—The World's Toughest Milkman are tough to find. Reid Fleming has been a sleeper for the last three years, but people are only now waking up and taking notice. While comic collector's are still eager to obtain back issues of Uncensored Mouse #1, the real interest is in Uncensored Mouse #2. Since some comic distributors have withheld their copies of Uncensored Mouse #2 from circulation, this particular issue has become very hard to find. Thus, copies of Uncensored Mouse #2 are presently selling at prices higher than issue #1.

One of the most neglected comic lines on today's market are the Disney comics from Gladstone. These comics are being read by people of all ages. There is also a strong back issue demand for early Gladstone issues of Donald Duck and Uncle Scrooge, some of which feature the only reprints of classic "duck" adventures by Carl Barks.

THE ANOMALY DEPARTMENT: There are two versions to issue #1 of the 1981 Marvel Spotlight series. While copies of Marvel Spotlight #1 released to the mass market vendors are free of any production errors, those released through direct sales lack a #1 on the front cover. However, there appears to be no indication that one issue is harder to find than the other.

D. W. Howard & Lyn Winter
Super Giant Books & Comics
North and South Carolina
9/89

We are going to say the last thing we have to say about Batman! (Honest, we know that all of you are bored with us going on about Bats by now.) Based on what has happened since May, we feel that events have shown that the comics specialty dealer has proven his worth in the marketplace. The fellows who are trying to be convenience stores were ready for Batman movie-goers with current new comics, trade paperbacks, T-shirts, buttons, plastic figures, key chains, and so forth. Suddenly, when the movie opened, they found that book stores, variety stores, and (of course!) convenience stores were also ready—with the same thing!

All the Super Giants had a decent assortment of new Batmerchandise—plus plenty of back issues! We feel that being able to offer the customer early back issues really proved to a lot of people that we could offer them a better alternative. If you walked into Super Giant #3, in Anderson, S.C., and had the chance to buy Detective #38 (the first appearance of Robin), well, what B. Dalton or Waldenbooks can measure up to that? The comic specialty dealer can do a lot more for the comic buyer than the mass-market places can. We feel that Batman proved it, and we're pretty proud!

Generally, the influence a local shop has on people's buying patterns has been underemphasized. Reviews in the Fan Press (CBG, CJ, AH, etc.), a major media attention (like the favorable articles about "Dark Knight" in "Rolling Stone"), and publisher promotion are thought to be the most important influences. But consider that there are several thousand shops out there, many of which have been in business for years, all of which have their own unique signatures. Surely, over time the efforts of the men and women behind the counters adds up to a lot!

For example, look at two tie-in items: ball cards and games. In talking to other dealers, we notice that the comic dealers who do a big business in games seem to be those who have a personal interest in games, and have—over time—pushed games to their customers. Same thing with ball cards: the guys and gals who personally like baseball, sell baseball cards, and talk about it and promote it, seem to sell a lot of cards. On the other hand, we have also talked to dealers who know comics, but really don't know a lot about games or cards—and these dealers generally describe their sales of games and/or ball cards as mediocre at best.

Certainly at Super Giant in Asheville, N.C., where the emphasis is on comics and books, it is not at all unusual for someone to pick out a first edition of science fiction, mystery, or modern literature along with a pile of new and back issue comics! We'll vouchsafe that this sort of "tie-in" merchandise is seldom, if ever, requested at a shop where the emphasis is on comics and games, or comics and cards. Yet a lot of our Asheville clientele do make purchases along these lines.

Naturally, the influence of dealers individually tends to act in all directions, and at first glance may appear to be diffuse. But if you'll think about it, it is only the total effort that is diffuse: a computer dealer, working his or her territory and pushing the material he or she has the interest and the expertise to push can have a tremendous effect over time. We think that this phenomenon has been pretty much overlooked in terms of how it effects market patterns. But maybe people may be paying much more attention to it in the future.

Meanwhile, back at the comic market, things are pretty much in a state of flux. Look at the cover price of new comics: Superman, Adventures of Superman, and Action are still 75 cents. Just about everything else is starting at a dollar and going up. (Yes, the Gladstones are 95 cents, but that might as well be a dollar.) The average today is probably about $1.50; if you weight the average in terms of number of copies sold (a lot more X-Men and Batman get sold at a dollar cover price than the higher-cover-priced titles) the average is still something like $1.25. This makes a whole lot of back issues—readily available for a dollar or less—comparative bargains. Yet we don't see a big movement toward those cheaper issues. We see dealers at cons carting around dozens of boxes of comics priced at a dollar, 50 cents, 3 for a dollar, etc., but we don't see a big swing toward taking advantage of these bargains.

What we do see is an increased emphasis on buying a comic after it has increased in value. It seems that to a lot of buyers, a new comic for $1.25 or a back issue for a buck is ho-hum stuff. But let that comic go to five bucks, and suddenly they are interested. Some of these folks are speculating hoping the $5 comic will climb to $10 or $20. Certainly using price as an indicator of quality—if enough people want it to raise the price, then it must be pretty good. Needless to say, some of these folks will be glad they bought in at $5—others will feel burned.

Let's get specific. Marvel annuals are moving well right now. As almost any dealer will attest, the Atlantis Attacks annuals are high demand items. Last year's Evolutionary War Annuals are also steaming along. This has brought increased awareness of the older annuals. Generally, the annuals have higher cover prices, yet if you look in the Updates, don't sell for a whole lot more than the regular-sized issues that came out about the same time. These annuals are bargains, and people are beginning to realize it. Collecting only annuals is also a good way to get a good cross-section of stories about a given character if you can't afford to go after all the regular issues.

Lower-grade Disneys are hot. With the new Gladstones almost a look, that makes a lot of earlier Dell and Gold Key issues in Fair to VG seem a good deal at the 50 cents to $2.00 range. Note also that the fat Gladstones are $1.50 cover—and those early Dells also have 52 pages. That makes $2 or so pretty much equivalent to buying a new issue. We still see reluctance to plunge for double-digit and up Barks books (because of the extensive reprinting), but the cheaper comics move right out. This is also true of non-Disney funnies. Obviously, at this retail level, dealers can't pay a lot for these when they buy. But we find that if we can get them, they do move.

(The buyer needs to keep in mind that generally the Dells and Gold Keys don't have page numbers—which makes it harder to spot a missing centerfold. Your dealer really should count the pages. Note also that often when a comic claims "52 big pages", the publisher is counting the 4 cover pages to get 52— so there are only 48 pages of newsprint in some of these.)

How low can X-Men prices go? We may find out in a few months: Marvel just announced a "Masterworks" reprint of"Giant Size X-Men" #1 and "X-Men 94 to 100. And remember, this hardcover reprint is on the heels of the issue-by-issue "Classic X-Men" reprints! While Giant Size #1 and #94 should hold up pretty well, it seems obvious that all this reprinting isn't going to be healthy for back issue prices. We are advising people holding X-Men as investments to dump all but #94 and Giant Size #1, in the "new" X-Men number range. Granted, Marvel isn't in business to support back issue prices, but consider how many people buy extra copies of X-Men as investment. We are already having multi-copy buyers cut back, aware that if the comics go up in value, Marvel will just do reprints. So does Marvel really benefit, if it loses a dollar in original-material sales for every dollar it makes in reprints?

Here's another area people are discovering is autographed comics, that is, comics signed by the writers, artists, editors, etc., who did them. We have received reports of certain dealers charging enormous premiums for signed comics. At Super Giant, we feel that a modest premium is more appropriate. First off, many of today's creators are pretty young—they will be signing comics at cons for years. (In the case of someone as youthful and as popular as Art Adams, it is possible that eventually virtually all of the copies of the long-shot mini-series will wind up being autographed!) With con admission fees mostly in the one to twenty dollar range—and the twenty dollar cons often have a dozen pro guests—multi-Guide prices for signed comics can't be justified. Second, we will point out that some dealers are hesitant to buy autographed comics, figuring that the signatures may not be genuine. We personally know a half-dozen amateur artists who are good enough to fake most pro signatures! These particular guys aren't doing that, but it stands to reason that some fellows out there are. If you are going to buy a signed comic, make sure you are dealing with a dealer who is actually qualified to authenticate the signature—and don't pay a whole lot extra! (Natch, autographed items by departed pros probably will cost you a good bit extra—but in those cases, make doubly sure you can trust the dealer!)

The following new books are selling well: Punisher, Amazing Spider-Man, Shield, She-Hulk, Thor, Groo, Hulk, Avengers (all three titles), Captain America, Alien Legion, What If...?, Moon Knight and Marvel Universe. On the slow list are Cloak And Dagger, Doc Strange, Power Pack, Fantastic Four, Alpha Fight, Silver Surfer, Web, and Spectacular Spider-Man and the Nam (which has died almost completely). This summer's surprises are Nth Man and Quasar. Both of these books have really outsold my expectations. In a class all by itself is Daredevil. This book has probably been the most innovative over the last 12 issues of any book this year. Watch this one.

DC: There have been a few DC books (other than Batman) that have been selling well.

The two Justice League books have done quite well as have Dr. Fate, Sandman, Green Arrow, and the three Superman titles (thank goodness that they put Superman back in the Action title). I know that Animal Man is selling well elsewhere, but I've found little interest here. Most of the other DC titles are dead in the water as are Manhunter, The Phantom, Checkmate, Captain Atom, Blackhawk, Spector, The Question and both the Legion books. The Teen Titans had a great resurgence but are back to low sales again.

Independents. This is where I've seen the most action as far as odd-ball books.

Dark Horse. This company has definitely taken over the top spot—outselling everyone else (even the Turtles) 5 to 1. I have had sellouts on both the Predator books as well as the second volume of Aliens. Predator #1 is selling briskly for $5 and Aliens Vol. II is moving well at $4. All the back issues of Aliens Vol. I have been selling well.

First Comics. The only books I have been able to move from First are Beauty And The Beast, Dreadstar and the Badger issues by Tim Vigil. The rest are dead.

Eclipse. I'm going to clear this rack. Indicated that I could only find two Eclipse titles and those have been sitting there for months. Need I say more. Oh, the Clive Barker book did sell out and I had to get more, but other than that...

Blackthorn. The only books I order from them are the Dick Tracy titles—these are the only ones that sell.

Comico. These titles have completely stagnated except for the Rocketeer Adventure Magazine. This one sells when it comes out which is not often enough.

Innovation. These people sure have a lot of books available, but the only one that has been selling at all is the Star-grazers book.

Mirage Studios. Well, the Turtle guys have really hit the big time, but I've noticed a dropping in sales on their books. The Archie book has slowed drastically and the regular issue has slipped a tad. Back issue sales have also lagged.

New England. What can I say about The Tick? Sales have been steady—new issues and back issues. I've been getting $12 for #1 and $9 for #2. Numbers 3 and 4 seem to be readily available, but where has issue #5 been? The momentum is almost gone and it is going to be hard to get things rolling again!

A.C. Sales have been really steady on these books. Most of the fans are devout readers and Americomics is the only company that produces a quality book of this type. They are also the only company who is making western comics, so they really have a corner on that market. Keep up the great work Mr. Black.

Revolutionary Comics. Well, I really don't know how much longer these people will be around. #4 has just come out even though my wholesaler said it would be held up due to litigation between the parties involved.

Now Comics. These guys really have a hit on their hands with The Green Hornet. Let's see if it will last.

Continuity Comics. Once again, shipping has been erratic on these books; this can only hurt sales. As of now, Samuree is their best seller.

Northstar Pubs. Faust, wow, is this comics? #'s 1 and 2 (first prints) are moving well at $15 each (#2 seems harder to find). This book is definitely for those with liberal views on comics and not for the squeamish. Very demented, but good. Their other book O-Men seems to have been missed by a lot of people and is very hard to find.

Gladstone. These classics have been outselling

Cliff's Books
209 North Woodland Boulevard
Deland, FL 32720

Dateline Deland,

Well, the summer of "The Bat" is winding down, and what a summer it was. The movie had only been out for a few weeks and things were really getting stupid at my shop. People were buying "Bat" anything in a frenzy reminiscent of sharks feeding on fresh chum. All of the Bat titles sold out and had to be restocked. "Many Deaths" is running around $9 a set and Batman Year 3 is around $10. The movie adaptation sold quite well (both formats) and those are beginning to climb. The "Killing Joke" moves quite briskly at $22 (1st print), as do any printings of "The Dark Knight". Year 1 is much easier to find that year 2 ($35 a set) and "Ten Nights Of The Beast" ($40 a set). Needless to say, this is where the action has been, back-issue-wise, this summer. But enough of this "Bat" weirdness.

Marvel. The House of Ideas is still pumping out the products, even though they have been overshadowed a bit by the "Caped Crusader". I noticed a slowdown in sales of the Mutant titles. I really feel that going bi-weekly with the X-Men has hurt sales in the long run. Most people just couldn't keep up with the book or didn't like where the story-line was heading. The only title that has been really consistent is Excalibur. Back issue sales on the X-Men, X-Factor, and New Muties have also slacked off. Could this mean something?

most of the other independents and some of the titles from the "Big Two". It's too bad that Disney is taking over control now that they are a hit. I look for Disney to completely ruin a good thing and bring them down to the depths they were at before Whitmen cancelled them. Only time will tell. Many thanks to Bruce Hamilton for giving us these classics to read again.

Back Issue Department. Well the all out winner in this area has to be that "Bat Person". Any issue, any condition, and just about any price. The Detective books have sold about 75% as well and any of the oddball titles or one-shots have been moving well. On the other hand, Batman And The Outsiders has not been as fortunate, even though issues 24 through 34 have all of Paul Neary of Excalibur fame.

I get the most requests for Silver Age Marvels and DC's, all of which sell just as fast as I can get them into the boxes. Of the Silver Age books, the ones that sell the quickest (besides Batman) are the early Amazing Spider-Man's and early X-Men. Secondary DC titles such as Metal Man and Metamorpho are becoming scarcer as are most of the Tower books.

Soap Box Time. Now, let's discuss an idea that has been bothering me for some time. Is the value of a comic based on what people will pay for it or is it based on what the Price Guide has it listed for? I know this is a little like, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg," but think about it. Do people pay a certain price for a comic because they feel it's worth that or because the Price Guide has it listed for a certain price? I know many dealers that use two or three Guides and price their comics by whichever has the highest listing. I even know one dealer that doesn't mark anything and uses a price Guide to dictate the price of the comic in question.

I've got books in my boxes that I marked six years ago. The Price Guide listing has almost quadrupled in value, yet the books are still sitting in my boxes at six-year-old prices! To me, this means that the books in question are not even worth what I have marked on them and are in no way worth what the Price Guide has them listed for.

Now don't get me wrong. There is no way that this business could survive without the Overstreet Guide—it is a valuable tool of our trade, but I feel that people depend upon it too much and don't watch what is really going on in their business. Also, in some cases, by the time the updated Guide comes out, some of their listed prices haven't kept pace with the new issue market (this can be either an upward or downward movement). I know that the Overstreet Guide is an overview of prices from all over the country, but I think very few dealers take that into account when they are pricing their books. Why price a book at a ridiculous price and have it sit in the box until it turns to dust? Price that sucker so it sells! Get it the heck out of the store and into the hands of someone who will enjoy it. That's what this is all about! You can't pay your bills with funny books.

Until next time, I hope everyone has a great fall and has fun. Thanks for listening.

Michael Goldstein, John Chruscinsku, & Robert Prince
Tropic Comics
742 Northeast 167th Street
North Miami Beach, FL 33162

Well, Bat summer is over, and it's back to school time for the kids. The past few months have been some of the busiest we can recall. The usual fall slump that hits us when school starts, surprisingly, has not begun yet. However, it's bound to start soon and we are ordering new comic books accordingly. September and October are usually the deadest retail months in the comic business.

Batmania surpassed just about everybody's expectations, but we are now seeing a definite slowdown in Bat sales. T-shirt, toy and other non-comic book merchandise in the Bat line are very slow now. The lateness in shipping of a lot of this stuff hurt, too. In the comic book line, the mini series like Dark Knight, Death In The Family, The Cult and Killing Joke are still very hot, though we are beginning to see resistance to the prices on some of these books. A good example is Batman #426, the first part of Death In The Family. The current update boosted the price up to $50. We had been selling them fairly well at $30, but when we raised the price to current Guide prices, sales stopped. They might sell at $50 in certain parts of the country, but we feel $30 - $35 is a more realistic all around price. The other three issues, #427-429, are selling at Guide. In fact, #429 is selling well over Guide. We get $12 for a mint copy. The Joker comic is still red hot with all issues selling for over Guide. We get $10 minimum for any issue in mint condition. #1 sells for the Guide price of $20.

The expected increase in interest of the other Batrelated titles like Brave And The Bold, World's Finest, and Batman And The Outsiders never happened. They're still very slow.

As for the regular Batman titles, they are still selling very well as new issues, but the ordinary back issues have slowed a bit. The series within a series books are still flying out of the stores. The best selling of these is the Ten Nights Of The Beast story-line from Batman #417-420. We can't keep them in stock at $15 a piece. Batman Year Two in Detective #'s 575-578 are not far behind, and are selling for $12 each. Everyone seems to have ordered high on Batman Year One, so there is a plentiful supply and it doesn't sell as well. Year Three, and the Mudpack story-line have both been sellouts for us. DC seems to have hit on something with these short series and we don't see any slowdown in sight as they live up to the quality. Books with Joker covers and stories are also still very popular. At the San Diego con we saw the Neal Adam's Joker issue (Batman #251) selling for $40 in near mint! All of the Adams and Marshall Rogers issues are very hot in nice shape and are going for over Guide. Batman #366 with the new Robin and a Joker cover is very hard to find and is selling in the $20 range. Other good sellers are the 25 cent giant issues from the sixties and the 100 page's from the seventies.

I guess that's enough Batman stuff for now, although I must tell you that I am writing this report with an official Batman pen, and the Batman figure on the top keeps falling off. Is this an omen! Onward.

Marvel: High grade early Silver Age are the hottest books there are right now, with Amazing Spider-Man leading the pack. Numbers 5 and 6 seem impossible to find in NM-M. #1 is you see in high grade, but a good portion of the nice ones you find have had some form of restoration. Amazing Fantasy #15 is the hardest key Marvel to find in top condition. The unusual cover color makes color touch-up restoration nearly impossible. An unrestored mint copy could easily go for $4,000 to $5,000. Of the other Key Marvels, the hardest to find in nice shape are Tales Of Suspense #39 and Hulk #1, both of which are rarely found in true NM-M. I'm sure we could get $1,000 for either one in that condition. The other key books such as X-Men #1, Avengers #1, Journey Into Mystery #83, and Daredevil #1 are fairly plentiful, though the sharp-corned ish X-Men #1 and Daredevil #1 are going for over Guide because they have white covers. The whiter they are, the better they sell, and the more they go for. We recently sold a NM X-Men #1 wholesale for $1,200 to another dealer.

The late 60's Marvel titles are continuing their rise as one of our strongest sellers. Early issues of Iron Man, Captain America, Submariner, Silver Surfer, Nick Fury, Captain Marvel, Incredible Hulk, Thor, and Not Brand ECCH are selling at a feverish pace, and we don't know where it will end. These books have dried up in supply so quickly that we cannot even begin to estimate final leveling off prices. Judging by the demand, Iron Man #1 in mint could be $200 by the end of the year. Cap #100 is easily a $100 book right now, we have a waiting list, but have not come across a mint one in some time. The books these titles sprang from are just as much in demand. Tales Of Suspense, Strange Tales, Tales To Astonish, and Journey Into Mystery are zooming out of here. The new key books, Tales Of Suspense #58, #59, and #63 are still going for way over Guide in nice shape (about 2 times the Guide). Strange Tales #114 is very hard to find in high grade. We have an NM copy which we are asking $90 for. Tales To Astonish #70, where Submariner first gets his own series since the Golden Age, is not even mentioned in the update and we've been selling nice ones easily for $20. Captain Marvel #1 is hot, though the rest of the series just sells okay. Ol' Colonel Fury is making a comeback both in the Nick Fury series from the

sixties and the Sgt. Fury books as well. Early Sgt. Fury issues are hot and getting harder to come by.

Early hero issues of Tales Of Suspense, Astonish, Strange Tales and Journey Into Mystery are very scarce in nice condition and are bringing 1 1/2 times Guide if you can find them. The later issues of these titles are pretty easily found but still sell well at Guide. Fantastic Four sells well before #30, the later ones are pretty slow. Exceptions are the Silver Surfer appearances and the Hulk vs. Thing issues. Fantastic Four #s' 48 through 50 sell very quickly at Guide, but not over; #'s 25 and 26 go for $100 in mint. #112 is getting hard to find because of its black cover and sells for double Guide in mint. Other significant issues are #s 4 with the first Silver Age Sub-Mariner and #'s with the first appearance of Dr. Doom which, if we could find them, we would sell for way over Guide. We have a standing offer of $600 for 9 mint #5's, but have yet to come across one. The first three annuals are also very popular and are hard to keep in stock at Guide. All early Marvel annuals are this way and are just now catching up to current market prices in the Guide. Until recently, they were the best buys on the market. One that still is a good buy is Daredevil Special #1. A great book, which for some reason still only lists for $4. We get $15 for it easily. If you can find them at Guide before you are, snatch them up. Conan, after a brief surge of interest, has slowed again and is getting tough to sell even at Guide. Former slow sellers that we are seeing renewed interest in are Moon Knight, She Hulk, Man-Thing, Howard the Duck, Warlock, by the way, was not listed in the last update). X-Men is a funny book to predict. At the moment #'s 1 through 20 are still hot, while #'s 21 through 93 have not been selling. 94 and Giant Size #1 are good sellers in top shape but slow in lesser grades. #95-130 are dead except for 100, 101, 120 and 121. This has been true for some time because of all the reprints. #131 through #200 are moderate sellers, and #201 to present are really hot. New Mutants is still a moderate seller as is Excalibur, which was very hot a few months ago. Except for the early issues and the books from the past years, Avengers sales have been slow. It seems to have affected most of Marvel's older titles. The early ones sell well and the fairly new ones are great sellers, but the mid-run stuff is slow.

The early reprint comics are on the move. Marvel Tales #1 is a very strong seller as is any issue up to #32. Other good selling Marvel Tales are #'s 106 and 209 which reprint the first Punisher story and Spider-Man #1 (2 issues) and #137 and #138 which reprint the first Spider-Man stories from Amazing Fantasy #15 and Spider-Man #1. We've been getting about $7.50 for #106 and $5 for #209. Marvel Collector's Item Classics and Fantasy Masterpieces are also moving well. As for the new issues, McFarlane's Spider-Mans are our best seller. We are sad to hear he is leaving the book, and are concerned how this will affect sales. The other Spidey titles are moderate sellers.

The Mutant books are still among out best sellers with the exception of Alpha Flight which is dying a slow death. We were disappointed with John Byrne's Wolverine, both in sales and quality. We expected more considering it's the fans' favorite artist working on the fans' most popular character. After a few successful issues, Byrne's She Hulk is dying and he is leaving the book. On the brighter side, his Avengers books are doing quite well. Dead books include GI Joe, Transformers, Cloak And Dagger and Power Pack. Punisher and Punisher War Journal are still our second best selling Marvel titles. This character is hot! The mini series issues fly out of here at Guide for #'s 1 and 2 and $10 each for 3, 4 and 5. The regular series, we get $10 for #1 and about a buck over Guide for #'s 2 through 15. On War Journal, we get $5 on #1, $3 on #2 through #5, $7 on #6, the rest are at Guide. We think we've reached the limit; pricewise, on Hulk #181 and Amazing Spider-Man #129 at current Guide prices. The books are still incredibly hot, but we feel there will be resistance to buying if the price goes much higher.

DC: Well, we discussed Batman earlier, so we won't get into that again. I'm sure you readers are sick of seeing that B word again anyways. You Supey fans out there will be sad, but Action, Superman, and his related titles are very slow, and we see no hope in sight. Also slow are Adventure comics and Legion Of Super-Heroes. We've never had that big an interest in them down here, but they must be hot somewhere.

The key Silver Age DC's like Adventure #247, Action #252, Showcase #'s 4 and 22, Brave And The Bold #28, Green Lantern #1, and Flash #105 are great sellers, but not at much over current Guide. These books seem to be plentiful in low grades, but very nice copies are scarce and could bring high prices. Like the Marvels, the mid-sixties DC titles are the latest big sellers. Aquaman, Atom, Hawkman, Metal Men, Doom Patrol, Hawk And Dove, Metamorpho and the Strange Adventures appearances of Animal Man are red hot. Those early Animal Man issues are going for 3 to 4 times Guide, believe it or not. Early Silver Age Flash and Green Lantern issues sell great in any grade. The Brave And The Bold issues of Justice League and #'s 1 through 5 do very well, but the rest are slow. Green Lantern #'s 40 and 59 are in tremendous demand, and are selling at 1 1/2 Guide in top shape.

Swamp Thing has taken an unexpected upswing saleswise with the Wrightson and Alan Moore issues leading the way. House of Secrets #92 with the first appearance of our big messy friend is in very high demand and getting hard to find. V For Vendetta and Watchmen, the other big Alan Moore books are good sellers as well. The first 4 or 5 years of Showcase and Brave And The Bold are hot even when they didn't feature future popular characters. The first couple years of each are very tough to find in VF-M.

In the new book line, the AD&D titles are doing fairly well, though the audience is limited. Among the good sellers are: Flash, Animal Man, Captain Atom, Deadman, Question, Dr. Fate, Hellblazer and all the Pirahna Press titles, except Sleeze Brothers, which is slow.

Other slow books include Wonder Woman, Blackhawk, Doc Savage, El Diablo, and Hawk And Dove. The other titles sell in the moderate range, no slowing but no gaining either.

As for alternatives, both the Mirage and Archie Turtle books have picked up quite a bit in the past few months, and the early Mirage Ninja strings are hard to keep in stock. Flaming Carrot and Cerebus, once our best selling alternates as back issues have slowed to almost a dead halt. While Sim's art has improved greatly from the early issues of Cerebus, the story-line recently has put old Aardvark fans to sleep and not attracted any new readers. First comics are doing pretty well. We've seen increased sales in Nexus, Badger and Grimjack. Lone Wolf And Cub is faltering, but still has its loyal audience. Faust is hot, and has increased interest in back issues of Grips because of Vigil's graphic violent art. Dark Horse's Predator sold out here the day of its release. Aliens was also a great seller. We already have tons of orders for the Dark Horse Presents issues which will feature two characters against each other. Mediocre titles include: Grendel, Elementals, Sable, Whisper, the AC books, Leather And Lace, Scimidar and the Japanese books, which there are too many of to list (sorry Big Kahuna). The only other alternates we think worth mentioning are some of the reprint books like the Spirit and Dick Tracy, which don't sell great, but have their own dedicated following. We may have left out a couple of better sellers, but for the most part, the other alternates are dead, kicking up daisys, buried alive in their rotting coffins, smothered to death by cases upon cases of Batman and X-Men comics (sorry, I got a bit carried away). I guess you get the idea.

Golden Age: DC titles are still the best selling of these, though Batman, while still the hottest, is slowing due to skyrocketing prices. Pre-hero DC's are rare in any shape, and are going for way over Guide in most cases. The rest of their hero books fly out of our stores when we have them. Condition doesn't seem to matter, because fair copies sell as well as high grade ones. Marvel/Timely comics are making a big comeback. They slowed for a while, but now are selling just as well, in fact better, than a lot of DC's. Leading the bunch are Captain America and Marvel Mystery, followed close by Human Torch and Submariner. In other Golden Age, Whiz and Captain Marvel sell as soon as we get them, but the other Marvel Family books, Mary, Jr., Wow, etc., are slower.

We recently picked up some Quality Comics Group books like Police comics, Military, Blackhawk, etc., but they have not moved, even though they feature some of the finest artwork of the Golden Age. [Call me, let me give you my want list!—J.W.] Pre-1941 comics that are not reprints of comic strips are quite sought-after and are very scarce. EC's have

started to move again, but high grades are most in demand. The comic book and early magazine issues of MAD are once again in high demand. Fiction House titles like Jumbo, Jungle and Planet are selling again after a stagnant period. The early 1950's Crime, Horror, Sci-Fi, and Romance are fairly slow right now, though they go through periodic surges every couple of years. Movie, TV and Western photo cover comics are going better than they ever have. Some of them are very underpriced and are good investments for the future. There are too many to list specifics, but drop us a line and we'll give you our opinions. [Ed. Note: Sunset Carson in any grade! J.W.] Classics reprints sell well, but the originals are slow. I guess that's enough for now. Let's get into some of our actual sales.

In closing, we think the comic book market is very healthy right now and are expecting a great year.

Keith Cochran
Powder Springs, GA

Again, let me thank my partner David Checkle at Fischers' Books in Riverdale, GA for his invaluable help on pricing recent books.

New Issues: Batman is continuing to sell incredibly well. Demand slowed dramatically for two issues, but has picked back up with the Clayface issues. Year 3 sold out all 4 issues and the reprint of Part 1. What back issues we have left of past one have sold well at $3. Other stores report sales as high as $5. Other than Bat titles, DC's selling well as new issues are; JLI, Superman, Action, Dr. Fate, Flash, Firestorm, and Animal Man.

At Marvel, Amazing Spider-Man is our #1 seller, with Punisher, Punishers' War Journal, and X-Men close behind. The other mutant titles (other than Wolverine) have slowed. Daredevil, Web, Spectacular Spider-Man, Iron Man, and Dr. Strange continue to sell fairly well. We have noticed increased sales on Silver Surfer, Fantastic Four, Moon Knight and Nth Man.

Independents: Not much change. The Jademan books continue to be popular but are not carried at all stores. Flaming Carrot has an incredibly strong, loyal following that increases slowly but surely. #1 3-D Zarf is finally coming in and we sell none below current Update. We sold out last Uncensored Mouse #1 for $10 and #2 for $15. The #1 is plentiful, but #2 is legitimately scarce. Rock And Roll Comics with Guns And Roses has stabilized in the $12-15 range. The Motley Crue issue sold out and there will be no reorder. Distributors were notified to send copies back as there may be legal action against the publisher. Elementals, Faust, Robotech, Love And Rockets and Cerebus continue to sell but not as back issues. Prices are fairly consistent on early issues and we do not restock. There is not as much interest in Tick as there was three months ago. It sells okay as new issue but we do not get requests for the first 2 issues...Predator #1 is already bringing $4 for us. Aliens regularly sells out and we still are asked for first prints of #1. Black Kiss has slowed.

Gladstones are at last selling well everywhere, just in time for dear old Disney to pull the plug. The greed of this multi-billion dollar corporation is beyond belief. Their refusal to let Carl Barks paint characters he invented and made Disney millions with was abominable but what they are doing now to Gladstone and their artists is equally reprehensible. God forbid anyone should make a penny off of any Disney character unless Disney gets the lion's share of total profits. What a shame!

Batman: We need to give Batman his own section. We generally sell back issue Batman at Update. Notable exceptions are 100, 171, 200, 201, 251, 254, 300, and 366. We ask 1.5 to 2.0 times Update on all the above. #366 is much, much scarcer than 368 and Update prices should reflect this. We have sold many copies of 366 at $25 but 368 does not sell well above $15. #417 is harder to find than 418-420 and sells higher. We get $15, 12, 10, 8 for the 4-part series. We would be thrilled to get Update for the Death In The Family series. We have never sold a 426 for more than $35, but are now asking $40, 30, 25, and 10 for the four parts. #430 brings $4 as does #33. #436 is already bringing $3-4 and may be up to $5 by the time this report is printed. The Greatest Batman Stories first print is at least worth $50 and probably more like $75. The price in Update #9 must be a typo. We sold a Greatest Joker Stories for $45. We sold out of Legend Movie Specials at cover price. Those that we have sold as back issue have brought $6. The Batman Family are still underpriced as we ask 1.5 times Update and get it with no resistance. We found some resistance to Dark Knight #1 at $50, but have little resistance at $45. We ask update for 2-4. We do not stock any of the Batman, or the reprints of the Killing Joke which first print we sell fairly easily at $20. We sell the Cult at Update. We sold our last Dark Knight hardback for $75.

As back issues we are getting very strong resistance to 12 cents and above Detective unless they are special issues or extremely high grade. We are out of Batman. I suspect a lot of people buying Batman are neophyte comic collectors and not aware of Detective. This leads to a comment made by our colleagues at Super Giant I would like to take exception with. One should never equate print runs with scarcity. To assume there are more 12 cent Detectives around than 40 cent ones is dubious at best if you just consider the number printed. Sure, there may have been many more 12 centers printed, but there were also more thrown away, lost, damaged, returned, and destroyed. Twelve cent books in high grade are almost non-existent due to fracture of time. Walt Disney's Comics And Stories had print runs of up to 5,000,000 in the 50's. Try finding many copies of any issue now much less one in high grade. Also, comparing Batman to X-Men is like comparing apples to oranges. Anyway, I feel Bat prices may be too high already and should level off.

It is also foolish to try to apply basic economic laws to a collectibles market. Collectibles are not staple necessities from which laws of supply and demand originate. In a collectable market, demand for outweighs supply as a price-driving force. Scarcity is important but it is not the only factor. Conversely, as long as demand is high, prices will escalate regardless of supply. Admittedly, if something is in high demand and very scarce, like Spider-Man #1 in NM/M, prices will soar. However, that is not the usual case in comics. Hot books of the past like Howard The Duck #1, Miracle Man #1, Batman #426, or any of the current Bat hot books, were never in short supply, but had overwhelming demand. Scarce books like Marvel Classics will cheerfully tell you there is no demand for example, as popular as X-Men have been, Marvel has done a good job killing off back issue sales by reprinting the Classic X-Men series. All the early Spider-Man issues have been reprinted also. Why haven't sales of Spider-Man died? Simple, Spider-Man has more demand than any other comic character, period! [Ed. Note: Both parties in this discussion suffer from a lack of understanding of the theory of Supply and Demand. I suggest you read, "Economics In One Lesson", Hazlitt, Arlington House. J.W.]

Recent DC Back Issue: Flash and JLI sell sporadically as back issue and never above Update. We did sell a JLI test cover for $75. We also sold out of Animal Man #1 at $5. Watch for Strange Adventures #180 to take off shortly.

Recent Marvel Back Issue: Back issues of Punisher, War Journal, Wolverine, and Spider-Man continue to sell well. War Journal #6 has settled at $8 and #7 at $4. We sold many Spider-Man #'s 298 and 300 at $12 at the Fantasy Fair. We had over 40 copies each of 301-310 in our retail boxes and are now almost wiped out of those numbers which we sold at $5 for 301, $4 for 302-305, and $3 for 306-310. Punisher mini sells well for us at 1.25 times Update. We sell Punisher regular series at Update except for #9 which we sell at $5. We sell Punisher War Journal #1 at $5-6. Wolverine mini has slowed. We cannot get $10 for #1. There is a large supply available. $4 is by far the rarest and have no trouble getting $12. The latest Wolverine series is selling quite well as back stock although no issues are in really short supply. We sell them at current Update except for #'s 7 and 8, which we sell at $4. Web and Spectacular are both doing okay with renewed interest in Spectacular 1-10. We recently sold a Mint #1 for $15. Remember, this title is now 13 years old and early issues may be getting difficult to find in NM/M. Also, the title has many significant firsts, origins,

and appearances. I expect this title to do well and escalate in value the next two years. The Typhoid Mary and early Frank Miller Daredevils are selling well for us again. We sell most of the Millers' at Update but ask $10 for the first Typhoid Mary appearance. McFarlane Hulks all sell well at Update and #340 brings as much as $10.

Silver Age Marvels: Spider-Man continues to be "the book". Our VF/NM #1 went for $3,000 at auction. I guess a NM/M #1 would bring $4,500 or thereabouts. Hard to believe I passed on one at $850 just 3 1/2 years ago. So it foes. All issues 1-100 are selling well. Recent sales include VF/NM #14 for $2,000 (this book is very underrated, and worth much more than #129), NM #28 at $80, NM #19 - $100, VF/NM #20 - $80, NM 30, 31, 33, and 35 at $50 each, several Mint #129's at $175, and a VF+ $50 - $85. Most issues 2-49 in fine or less, we sell at Update. #51 continues to sell well at $15 for VF/NM copies. We have had one NM/M copy and sold it for $25. #90 continues to bring above Guide also. In fact, we have had little or no resistance asking 1.25 - 1.5 times Update for #'s 52-100 in NM. We ask double Update for 101 and 102. Fine or less copies we try not to stock and when we do acquire them we try to sell them quickly at Guide.

It's time to break out the early issues of Spider Man into their own categories in the Price Guide. #6 is worth considerably more than #5 in all grades. It is the absolute most difficult issue to find with any gloss at all. A true NM with creamy pages would easily bring $400 and maybe more. #9 is the first Electro and sells for at least 25% more than 7, 8, and 10. As I mentioned earlier, #15 is way undervalued. Not the Joker is to Batman, The Green Goblin is to Spider-Man. We have three buyers waiting for NM copies at $300. #15 is the first Kraven and we ask more for it and #13 (first Mysterio) than for 11 and 12. #17 is the second Goblin and we ask 50% more for it in VF or better than surrounding issues. In the 20's, 28 with the black cover is the hardest to find and also the first Molten Man. It should Guilde at 25% more than surrounding issues.

Update has about caught up with #'s 129, 134, and 135. These 3 issues are selling down. Expect a plateau. Same is true for later Punisher appearances. Two terrific bargains at or near Update are Annuals 1 and 2. We sold a nice VF#1 with white pages for $100 and turned down $60 for a NM/M #2. Expect these books to escalate.

While Spider-Man is still clearly #1, all other 12 cent Marvels sell well. We cannot locate enough key issues at any price. We did sell a stunning NM Avengers #1 with bright, white pages and covers for $800. A VF+ #4 brought $250. #11 is highly sought after and rarely brings more than $12-15. We sold a NM #11 for $75 and could have sold more. A NM #12 brought $60 as did a NM #14. #16 should also be priced separately. NM #'s17-19 rarely command much above Update, but we have sold two NM #18's for $50. We have also seen interest in higher # Avengers and recently sold a run in the 40's and 50's for 1.25 times Update. All were VF/NM or better.

Captain America #100 continues to be the most sought after Marvel other than Spider-Man. Fine copies bring $35, VF - $60, VF/NM - $75. We have had no NM copies but would ask $100 and $125-150 for Mint. Issues 101-113 sell at Update. Expect Cap 100 to get to $125 before there is any price resistance. I was very surprised to see Cap Marvel #1 jump to $50. It's a good seller for us at $30 in NM. Of all the 1968 key Marvels, this is by far the least important and our slowest mover.

Daredevil is again hot for us. A NM #1 went for $550. #'s 2-10 are all hot above Guide. #'s 11 - 1.5 times update in strict /NM. Lower grades sell at Update. #s 16 and 17 (Spider-Man issues) are very hot and should have their own price category. We ask and get double Update for these two issues but sell surrounding issues at only slightly above Update.

Fantastic Four continues to be hard to find and easy to sell. We have long want lists for 1-20 in VF or better. We have three avid collectors ready to pay $4,000-5,000 for a NM/ M #1. #5 continues to be the most sought after issue followed by #4 and #6. We would gladly pay 1.5 times Update for NM copies of any of these issues. We have located no high grade copies of 1-20. We sold a very pretty VF/NM #25 for $100, a VF #28 for $50, a VF/NM #44 for $20 and a NM #46 for $25. #48 is red, red hot. We sold a solid VF for $70 and saw a NM go for $100. #50 is also very hot. We sold a VF+ copy for $35 and a VG copy for $15. We sold two NM #52's for $20 each. Other than #100 and #112, we have had few other requests, but I expect #'s 54-125 to start on the move shortly. The first two annuals are scarce in high grade and remember, Annual #1 has a Spider-Man appearance and predates Spider-Man #3.

The early reprint titles continue to be very hot at up to 3 times Update for NM/M copies. Actual sales we have made include: Fantasy Masterpieces #2 NM - $10; #3 NM - $10; #'s 4-6 NM - $7.50 each; Marvel Collectors Items Classics #1 NM/ M - $40; $2 NM/M - 15; #s' 4 and 5 NM/M - $10 each. These are extremely hard to find in NM and the copies we sold were the finest we have ever seen. I would urge collectors not to quibble over price if any of these can be found in NM with white pages.

Hulk 1-6 are extremely scarce in VF or better and difficult to find in any grade. We sold low grade copies of 3 and 4 at Update. The only #1 we have seen recently has had color touch up. We are offering $1,000 for a NM copy with white pages. It may no longer exist. It is possible that most or all of the early Marvels in extremely high grade are locked up in serious collections and may stay there for years. #102 is hot. We sold three VF copies at $35, a VF/NM for $50 and a NM for $60. 181 is not quite as hot as Spider-Man 129, but it is close. We sold a beautiful NM copy at $165. 180 and 182 sell well at Update.

Iron Man #1 is still underpriced and almost as sought after as Cap 100. We sold an incredibly white NM/M copy for $200. VF/NM copies sell quickly at $125. This is another book collectors should not quibble over if found in high grade. We sold 2 nice VF/NM 2-10 at 1.25 times Update. We sell all issues above #10 at Update. Expect prices on 2-10 to stabilize soon but not #1.

We have had no Journey Into Mystery's under #115 since last Market Report. This title is still hot.

Sgt. Fury is becoming highly sought after, especially #'s 1 and 13. We sold a VF #1 for $155. We sold numerous copies of #13 and got $50 for a beautiful NM/M copy. VF copies easily bring $30. The only other high grade copies we have had were of issue #'s 6, 7, 9, and 10, which sold at $25 each and 14 and 15 which each brought $15. Expect this title to continue to escalate.

Silver Surfer (1968) is once again very hot. We have more calls for #4 than #1 and I expect both are well worth $100 in NM/M. What few NM copies we have had have all sold for at least 1.25 times Update. Our VF #4 sold for $60. This is one of Marvel's very best characters and this series is late enough to be able to find copies in NM/M with white pages. The square binding of the early issues make them harder to find in NM/M, of course. Expect prices on the entire run to soar in the near future.

If I had one title other than Spider-Man to invest in, I would choose Strange Tales 101-146. We would gladly pay above Update for any issues in NM with white pages, not just the keys 101, 110, 114, and 115. In fact, 107 is becoming as sought-after as these issues and 135 is already very, very hot and VF/NM copies are bringing up to double Update if with white or off-white pages. We sold a VG copy of 107 for $25. Recent sales include a NM 113 for $50, NM 119 and 120 at $35 each, NM 132 at $20, and NM copies of 129, 133, and 134 at $15 each. 136-148 all bring $10 each in strict VF/NM with nice pages. One would think that with such interest in Strange Tales 135 that the Nick Fury series would also soar. We did sell a NM #1 at $25, but, in general, this series has been disappointing. I think the reason the Strange Tales sell so well are the multiple stories and characters in each and the age of the early issues. 101-109 all predate Spider-Man #3. Most issues 110-134 have a Torch and a terrific Ditko Dr. Strange story and 135-146 have Ditko Dr. Strange and Kirby Nick Fury. The Steranko issues of Strange Tales do not sell as well as the earlier ones but are by no means a slow seller. 159 and 167 sell easily in the $10-12 range. Strange Tales Annual #2 is very over-looked and an important and undervalued comic. It was reprinted and on the shelves shortly before Spider-Man #3 so it has a very early Spider-Man appearance. It is also almost never found in high grade. Double Update is a quite reasonable price for this book. Though technically not Strange Tales, #169- the first Dr. Strange, is red, red hot. We sold a NM copy with very white pages for $25. Submariner #1 is also hot as is the Iron Man and

Submariner one-shot. Both are worth $50 in NM/M and should continue to escalate towards the $75 range before there is any price resistance. Submariner 2-15 continue to move but only in VF/NM or better and around 1.25 times Update.

All issues of Tales Of Suspense are hot! We have long want lists for nice copies with white pages of 40, 48, 52, 57, 58, 59, 63, 65, and 66. #58 has finally broken but is still way underpriced. We sold a nice VF+ for $75 and would pay that for a NM copy. We saw a NM- copy sell for $85. Our last auction saw a fine+ copy bring $50. We sold two VG copies at $30 each. We sold a NM- #52 for $60. 63 is a stunningly attractive issue. We have sold over 30 copies the last few months. We got $50 for our only NM copy. VF/NM copies brought $35. I feel 65 is a superior book to 66 and harder to find. We ask $30 for NM 65 and $20 for 66. All other issues in NM with white pages bring double Update or more.

Tales To Astonish 27 may have peaked but not so 35-101. We sold a NM 42 for $50 and a VF 40 for $50. Both had very nice pages. All #'s below 50 are very scarce. It's time to break the 157--Hulk Splash Issue. We have sold numerous VF copies at $30 and a bona fide NM for $50. 59 and 60 both sell in the $50-60 range. We sold 3 #70's at $20 for NM copies with white pages. But, we get $20 for 61-69 also. #70 should command more, but we are not seeing it like we see #50 and the Suspense firsts. 71-99 all have at least $12 for high grade copies with nice pages. 100 and 101 bring slightly more. There is good investment potential in this title. Our friends tell us Thor sells well, but we have not had any to sell. Remember, TTA 27 was originally planned as a Super Hero and is still legitimately scarce.

I could not for the life of me figure why some early issues of X-Men sold well and others did not until I compiled the Fantastic Four #1 to DD #1 list that hopefully is elsewhere in this issue.

X-Men was a very poor seller for Marvel from the start and remained a bi-monthly issue past #15. What this means is not only were low copies of early numbers sold but, more importantly, early issues were published out of later chronologically. It took almost two years for Marvel to print the first 10 issues. Issues 1-5 are all terrific sellers as is the Spider-Man issue (#35). The rest up to the Neal Adams issues are fairly slow. We sold a VG #1 for $175 and the prettiest #2 I have ever seen with snow white pages for $625. Any issue of 1-5 that looked as nice as that #2 should bring double Update. We offered a collector $1,300 for his NM #1 and he would not sell it. 6 up are not command dollar issues and probably look like that #2 and then only bring 25-50% more. The reprint issues sell very well for us as they are hard to find. We sold a NM/M 94 for $150 and a NM GS 1 for $100. None of the other new X-Men sell for us and we are not discounts to move them. Other than previously mentioned hot issues, I would expect this title to decrease in value.

The last three months have seen renewed interest in all 20-30 cent cover price Marvels form Aarghh! to Defenders to Omega to Logan's Run to Luke Cage (can you believe that!!). We've even started to buy up copies of Kirby's Black Panther, CAT, Chamber of Darkness, Black Goliath, Nova, Tomb of Dracula, and Master of Kung Fu (which is a terrific comic if you have not tried it). Hey, I'm wrong, I'm almost nothing, and if I'm right, I'll do substantially well. Besides, investing in comics with little or no current appeal is part of the fun. I also firmly believe that there are enough Marvel completists to warrant the chance. Godzilla has already moved into the $5 range. If that can happen, who's to say other titles will not do as well? We sold a VF Defenders #1 for $15. It wasn't too long ago you could not give away that book. Any Marvel published before 1977 is worth considering as a speculative investment. Do not forget the early Marvel Westerns like Rawhide Kid and Kid Colt. These titles are hard to find in any condition and sell extremely well in high grade.

Comment: I'm sure anyone reading this has noticed I have really emphasized the importance of a book's pages. I don't think I can emphasize this strongly enough. A NM/M book with brown or tan edges has to be knocked down in grade. I recently purchased some of the Bethlehem Collection Marvels and DC's at around double Update. These books are being described as the Silver Age Mile Highs. Well, to me, one of the big things that has always made the Church books so superior is the crisp, white pages most of the books have. I have seen none with any browning and most do not have any tanning at all. Almost every Marvel I purchased from the Bethlehem Collection had at least a 1/4" strip of Marvel tanning on the inside lower or upper pages and cover. Some were very brown. Some also had very dirty pages. Some had browning on the outside covers as well. A few had nice pages with only a little tanning. I kept those. The DC's I bought were very inexpensive titles so I kept all of them. All the books look stunning. They are all glossy. They all have almost no spine wear or staple problems. All have nice sharp corners but hey, folks, Mile Highs they ain't!!! The reason pedigree books command high prices is that the collector knows what they are getting. You buy a NM/ M Mile High copy and you'll get an outstanding, crisp, glossy, sharp copy with outstanding pages. If the Bethlehem books I saw are indicative of the whole collection, you can be assured that the nice glossy covers are hiding an unpleasant surprise when the book is opened.

Silver Age DC: I've already mentioned we can't move 12 cent Detectives. This is not true for Batman. We sold a VF 171 for $75. We still have the NM copy and have turned down $135 for it. Joker covers remain hot at up to double Update. Our last NM 200 went for $75. What few 10 cent Bats we have had all sold fast and up to 1.5 times Update, depending on grade and story. By the time you read this, I expect Batman prices to have slowed.

Some other DC titles have picked up dramatically the past few months. We now have waiting lists for NM copies of Atom, Aquaman, Brave And The Bold, Hawkman, Flash, Green Lantern, and Showcase. Low grade copies do not sell well unless key issues like Flash 123 or Green Lantern 89. A VG Atom #1 brought only $25 at a recent auction. We have a standing offer of $250 for a NM/M copy. We sold a NM/M #13 with very white pages for $25. We sell no NM Atom or Hawkman for less than $10. There is considerable room for growth on this title.

Key Brave And The Bold issues continue to sell well. A Fine+ #28 went for $500 at the Fantasy Fair. A NM/M 34-36 brought $400 for the set. A Fine #54 got $45, a NM #57 - $25, and a NM #60 brought $30. 61 and 62 both easily bring $15 in NM. Books like Cast Action and Capt. Storm are impossible to find and bring 2-4 times Update depending on condition. Early Challengers sell okay but higher numbers do not, regardless of condition. This is a shame. These nice old books are hard to find and should be valuable. Unfortunately, as our friends at Super Giant point out, there are few DC properties like Challengers was a Marvel title, issues in the 30's would easily bring $35. DC collectors are a different breed. They seem to love obscure titles with low issue runs so they can get them all at reasonable prices. This is why you can sell Plastic Man, Spectre, Brave And The Bold, and Showcase but cannot sell Challengers. So it goes. Like Marvel, the early DC reprint series like Secret Origins are very hot in high grade. These books should continue to escalate.

If there is a truly hot mainline title at DC other than Batman, it is Flash. All issues 105-150 are sought after and we have waiting lists for high grade copies. 105-110 are wanted in any grade. 111-120 are impossible in NM and are very undervalued. We sold NM copies of 117 and 120 for $75 each. A NM 129 sold for $80 and a NM 137 for $25. We have not had a 104, 110, or 123. This is another title with growth potential even though early numbers are already expensive. Remember, 105 came out a full 2 1/2 years before Fantastic Four 1 and is very, very scarce. I suspect this will hit $1,000 shortly. 112-114 are all origin issues and relatively inexpensive. Buy them now.

Hawkman has increased interest along the lines of the Atom. We gladly pay full Update for any issues in VF or better.

Green Lantern has also picked back up. We sold another #16 in VF/NM at double Update. 59 continues to amaze and NM copies are pushing $100...we traded a NM 40 for $200 in hot Batmans which we then sold for $250. We haven't had any nice early issues and now have waiting lists. We do have a very pretty #8 we have turned down 1.5 times Update on.

Justice League continues to be very slow except for #1. The same is true for Metal Man and Metamorpho. Mystery in Space 53-90 are still consistent sellers above Update in high

grade. Flip Hunters and Sea Devils are good examples of DC titles with short issue runs and therefore collectable.

Showcase is a great title with interest in virtually all issues, even the Lois Lane ones. Almost every issue is a key of some sort starting with the first Silver Age hero in #4. A stunning NM/M copy with white pages (do I really need to repeat this? NM means it must have white pages) sold for $4,500 to a very serious collector. This same person purchased a NM/M Showcase 22 for $1,500. These are both verified sales. The keys don't stop until the Tommy Tomorrow run but even these sell well. 30 issues become very sought after, especially in high grade. Not only does it re-tell Aquaman's origin, but it is his first Silver Age appearance.

31-33 also all sell well. 34, of course, is all but impossible (maybe it is impossible) to find in NM. I found a copy that appeared NM/M and would have paid $375 for it , but—you guessed it—the pages were not nice. The Spectre issues all sell great and are undervalued. I remember seeing #60 on the stands as a kid with the announcement, "The most important event in comics in 20 Years" and could not believe this character that I had never even heard of. Well, there are a lot of serious collectors in my age group that remember this also that are looking for all the DC Silver Age books that bring back Golden Age heroes. Keep in mind that most of us were heavily into Marvel at that time and there was little interest in DC until we saw these GA characters. Anyway, we do not take less than $10 for any GA appearance and are going up to $15 shortly for key issues. Other key Showcases it's include 67, 73, and 75. We ask $10-15 for any of these in VF/NM or better.

Believe it or not, we are getting calls for Superboy 40-100, and Superman 100-150. Also, Action 200-230. I don't know why. Action 242 and 252 are still called for but we have no copies. We never get asked for Legion appearances—who cares?

The only Adventures we are asked for are 256, 260, 269, and 275. Would someone please explain to me what the big deal with the Legion is?

The only notable change since last Update in Silver Age DC is in the war books. We are trying frantically to purchase copies of Our Army At War, Our Fighting Forces, and Star Spangled War Stories. These are all very tough books but extremely difficult to find. I particularly enjoy the dinosaur issues in Star Spangled War.

Before leaving DC, I should mention that all the Kirby books are being sought after as well as Phantom Stranger, Enemy Ace, and the Creeper.

Other Silver Age: Pre-hero Marvels are being gobbled up as fast as we can locate them. Amazing Adventure #1, as thought by some to be the first Silver Age Marvel, regardless, it is hard to find and easy to sell, especially in high grade. All Disko and Kirby stories are being sought after. EC's and Ducks are about the same but non-Duck four colors are moving well as are Classics.

Star 1-10 are in ever increasing demand, but we have trouble selling the higher numbers which, unfortunately, we have lots of. The Hanna-Barbera titles have slowed a little but still move in high grade. Other TV titles all are doing well.

Golden Age: We still do not get much Golden Age, but we are starting to become more aggressive in trying to purchase Golden Age books. We are concentrating on low grade DC and Timely and low priced others like Golden Lad, Green Lama, Crack, Wonderworld, Dollman, etc. We sold all our low grade items at the Atlanta Fantasy Fair which is not known as a particularly good GA market. That convinced me to get on the stick and buy whatever we could afford. There seems to be some great buys out there like Action 100 and 200, Adventure 40, 48, and 61. Crack #1, Flash 86 and 92, Sensation and even later number Timelys in high grade are affordable. Books like Daredevil Battles Hitler and Silver Streak #6 seem like gifts at Guide or thereabouts. Spyscrasher, Supersnipe and the Shadow are all very reasonable in Guide. I still expect Golden Age to take off as Silver Age slows.

Final Note: I was sure glad to see Comics & Records respond to the letter Jon mentioned last time. I felt the charge of price manipulation was ridiculous. I also feel their response was quite eloquent and commend them for it. I get tired of hearing comments that if I promote a book that means I have 100 copies of it. I wish I had a hundred Spider-Man #50 or TOS 58 or Astonish 57, Strange Tales 135, etc., etc. For that matter, I wish I had one copy of each, and I'm sure the other advisors feel the same way. I'd just like to point out that all we are doing is reporting sales and giving opinions. Sometimes we're right (TOS #63), sometimes we are dead wrong (I bought multiples of Kid #16 and none of X-Men #94 when they were both on the stands). I'm sure some of us are still stuck with Dazzler #1's.

Two more quick things: 1) Grading—when grading a book, try pretending you are sending it to the pickiest customer you have and you do not want it returned for being over-graded; and 2) I'd like to point out that although I spend most of my reports on books we sell for more or less than Update, we still sell over 90% of our dealer stock at or around current Overstreet prices.

Roger Smyth
Funny Business
New York, NY
9/8/89

Overview: It's been a bit less than two months since the last market report, which included the tail end of the summer, so there is really no dramatic shifts in the current market situation. Marvel's are showing more strength in the back issue department (see below), and DC's remain consistent both in current and back issue. Batman merchandising has calmed down a bit, prices for the comics remain constant, and for the past two to three weeks have been at a plateau, catching up, I suspect. The Batman video will be released November 15, which will cause another upsurge in prices for the holiday season. In general, the DC situation seems to be a matter of the market correcting itself. Marvel has been on the upswing for years, while DC, to put it gently, has been "quite". What is simply happening across the wide spectrum of DC's is that they have been vastly underpriced for years. Independents are "twisting in the wind", sporadic requests for Turtles, the First line, no requests for such 'hot' items as Rock and Roll, or Uncensored Mouse. Current buying patterns are centered around DC's and certain key Marvels.

DC: Status quo here. Batman prices remain constant, as noted above. Previously ignored crossovers are picking up, i.e., World's Finest, Batman And The Outsiders. I've placed a carton on the counter and they are gobbled up (#1 at $3, the balance of the run at $2). Major interest in Batman remains centered around #300-#400 (at from 50% to 100% over Guide), with interest now starting in the under #300 range. Year Two (Detective #575-578), clearly the most popular miniseries, with #575 probably the scarcest ($20-$25, #576-578 at $12-$15). Many people purchased #576-578 because of the McFarlane art, but neglected to get #575, making this the key book in the run. This situation also is reflected in Death In The Family. Many dealers and customers got caught short with #426, since the series didn't really start to be noticed until #427, making #426 the key book in this series; prices of $40-$50 seem reasonable, due to collector demand which eats up supplies. The sleeper set of the more recent Batman's is #417-420 (Ten Nights Of The Beast), last update has them at $10 each; current sell is $25 for #417, $18 for #416-420, and I've got NONE in stock. One fairly recent title which is showing renewed interest is Crisis On Infinite Earths. The past few weeks have shown an interest in both individual issues and the complete run. Since this series made so many changes to the DC universe, new readers who are just getting into DC's want to catch up, and Crisis seems to be the way. Current Guide prices seem to be accurate, but if you want 'em, I suggest getting them fairly soon.

With current material, DC remains top seller here, but there is a hint of trouble in paradise, caused interestingly by DC themselves. Piranha Press is a bomb at this writing, way,

way overpriced, no color, poor art, my customers laugh at (not with) them and put them down without a purchase. I will be stopping orders for them as of this order form. However, my customers aren't laughing about the Hawkman, and Walt Simonson reprint TPB's. They are angry that DC is charging $20 for reprint material, and showing their anger by not purchasing the books. These TPB's could retail quickly for $9.95, a bit slower at $12.95 (both books contain popular material), but $19.95 causes immediate price resistance.

Marvel: Silver Age Marvels seem to be where the action is; the last Update started to give an indication of this. It seems to center around Captain America issues (possibly because of the upcoming Captain America movie, but probably because collectors are starting to realize how unavailable these previously underpriced books have really become). The key book right now seems to be Tales Of Suspense #58, in which Captain America begins. The last Update listed it at $35, but current demand (at least 3-4 requests a week) places it at between $75 and $150 for a really nice copy. TOS #57 (first Hawkeye) is also difficult to find in nice shape, and in demand (Guide $65, ask $60-$100). Captain American #100 (Guide $65, sell $150 in nice shape) is also consistently requested. Captain America from #100 to about #120 also in constant demand (sell at Guide to 50% above). Apparently this will be a much more popular series than previous, so now would seem to be the time to get the key issues (see above), and books such as TOS #'s 63, 65, and 66. Guide would be a bargain, 50% to 100% over seems to be the more current range, again in nice shape. Other titles which may bear watching include Daredevil, Iron Man and the complete run of Tales To Astonish. More and more of these are being requested, which clearly indicates a continuation of the renewed interest in Silver Age Marvels. As far as current material, there is an upsurge in X-Men, new issues sell out the same day. Issues from #95 to #141 are quiet, but the later issues are in constant demand, which has to indicate that as later runs are completed, the only way to go is down, and the prices will go up. I'd think if you intend to fill in your X-Men, the next 6 months is the time to do it. Guide prices overall seem accurate. In relation to Guide prices, X-men is an example of a problem: #214-224 are listed at $1.60, but you will pay at least #2.00. No dealer I know of will honor Guide when it has prices of $1.20 or $1.70. In all likelihood, they will be raised to the next half- or full dollar. Please be aware of this if you purchase by Guide.

A few words here regarding the excellent market report by Keith Contarino in Update #9. In particular, Keith, quite accurately, notes the prevalence of "repaired" books. This is a serious issue, particularly now, when prices are escalating geometrically. I've never had a book repaired, either for sale or for my own collection. I've been in the business for over 12 years, and only last week was sitting at the knee of an individual who "restores" comics, and learning about paper bleaching (to restore whiteness to yellowing books), and nylon fibers (to repair). This is a common practice, and more significantly, there are dealers who will have a book repaired (spine roll remover, or cover cleaned at least), and somehow not happen to mention it when selling the book. If I, as a dealer, am still learning about all that can be "accomplished" to repair a book, the customer will surely be even more in the dark as to what to look for. Questions arise here, such as does removing a spine roll constitute a "repair". (Yes! J.W.) Generally, the Guide says no, but I would certainly consider it a "repair", since the book has been altered from its original spine-rolled shape. It would seem there needs to be more available either a major article, book, or even video, cheaply enough, to educate the public (and us), as to how to spot a book that has been repaired. The current price discrepancies between grades is growing, and thus, the "repair" will be even more profitable. It is a responsibility to our industry to educate, in this area, so that as collections are sold, people aren't being confronted with "but, it's been repaired", and feel they have been literally defrauded. It's unfair, unethical, and unprofessional

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We'd like to open this market report with the good news that sales this summer were far beyond normal for us in all facets of our business. We did so well that we're opening our newest store in Greenville, South Carolina.

Beyond the retail market of new comics, back issues continue to roll along at the increased rate that began the new year. And leading the way are Silver Age comics. Every time we feel we are making record-breaking sales for a particular book, it rises in value to a level exceeding the previous sale—it is becoming difficult to estimate how quickly some of this material is increasing! Below follows a list of actual sales on key Silver Age books from last market report to date. All books not graded were in near mint or better.

New Trend Silver Age: Captain America #100 - $75. Seems to be more realistic in the Guide, now. We cannot keep this book in stock, even though we turn them up at the rate of three or four per month in high grade. We have at least one standing offer of $100 for a NM/M copy.

Iron Man #1 - $200, VF - $137.50, GD - $12. Probably the single hottest of the new trend Silver Age. We sell them as fast as we get them at this price and can also not keep this book in stock. In one week in August, we turned up five NM/M copies, and sold all five within six days of purchasing them—all for $200 each. However, in good condition, you can see that it is not that extraordinary a book.

Iron Man #2 - $75. #3 through #10 also very hot and hard to keep in stock.

Iron Man and Sub-Mariner #1 - $75.

Submariner #1 - $50. The book seems to be stable at this price. #2-#10 all well at current Guide and we have nottrouble keeping those numbers in stock.

Captain Marvel #1 - $50. This is now a good seller at that price, and we turn this book up fairly regularly, and have less trouble keeping it in stock. (In fact, we currently have multiple copies of the entire run in stock!) 2-10 are also good sellers, and we recently made a sale of those issues to someone at a recent convention.

Dr. Strange #169 - $25. This book is up quite a bit, and the Guide should reflect this. We have seen dealers asking as much as $65 for less than near mint copies! We think that is going overboard, but we're having no trouble moving them at $25. #'s 170 through 183 are doing well, but we easily keep them in stock.

Nick Fury Agent of SHIELD #1 - $35. We've sold ten copies of this book at that price. It's such a quick mover for us, that we gladly pay $25 for near mint to mint copies. 2-7 are also quick movers lately, although issues after that are actually slow.

Silver Surfer #1 - $100. We cannot keep number one Surfers in any of our stores or in any of our convention stock! Over the past two weeks, we have turned up no less than four complete runs of this book, and have kept none of the number 1's longer than five days. Furthermore, all numbers in high grade are snapped up, with #18 being especially hot. Buyers are telling us that they are having trouble finding #18, but we're not having trouble finding copies, so this may only be that most dealers don't search them out, not that it is particularly scarce.

We'd like to point out that for every high grade copy sold, we usually have more quantity in lower condition and they sell very nicely at Guide prices. But it is infrequent that a Silver Age book in less than very fine, no matter how "hot" it is, demands a premium. Still, don't blow off the importance of lower grade copies. We buy large collections all the time, and we're happy to get Silver Age or Golden Age at all, very few being NM or M.

Television books continue to be a staple for us at most conventions. We do exceptionally well with these for reasons we went into in out last market report. Such titles as The Munsters, and Hanna Barbera Super TV Heroes are swift movers at above Guide prices. Although TV books from the fifties do well, it's the titles from the sixties that are the fiercest sellers. We find it difficult to keep The Man From Uncle, Secret

Agent, T.H.E. Cat, Avengers, Star Trek (Gold Key), Dark Shadows, and the like. We would like to repeat to all interested parties that we feel that these books are among the finest investments a collector can currently make, as most of these books are undervalued.

New Comics: A surprise hit for us was Tapping The Vein by Clive Barker. We sold out quickly and still have heavy demand. Retailers might want to look out for such upcoming titles as Hellraiser and Night Breed and ask their customers if they want those titles. A lot of horror books seem to be doing well. @Perhaps a result of the splatter movement?

Aliens did as expected—very good feedback on the new color artwork.

Predator—we didn't even get to see this book! It was gone that quickly! Our managers cried all the way to the bank.

Watch carefully for the Predator Versus Alien in Dark Horse Presents this fall. Be sure to tell your customers in advance so that you can up your orders to meet demands. We feel very strongly about the popularity of this book.

Flaming Carrot is still a swift mover for us, and overruns are not a problem, since back issues of it do so well. The Cerebus issue containing the Carrot is hard to find and undervalued in the Guide.

As usual, Dark Horse Comics do the best—they seem to sell themselves, and these fellows have quite a commercial eye. The look of their books is very nice, and the fans appreciate the high production values. The Dark Horse Presents annuals are a treasure to hold and look at.

Marvel: Marvel keeps on rolling, of course, the big two. Of the two, the biggest surprises remain for us, saleswise, Animal Man and Excalibur. In the case of Animal Man, the witty scripts are doing the job, since the art team is a revolving door situation—so the fans are not buying it for the artwork. As for Excalibur, the kids seem to be picking it up in spite of the fact that it is a mutant book, and not because of that.

Batman: Still a single title that deserves its own category, for notariety if for nothing else. This will be the last time we mention this book in its own category.

Sales have, as we predicted, fallen greatly, most notably on common issues of Batman, Detective, and related comics. The twenty or so stores we deal with frequently have verified this. At conventions, similar trends have evolved. Key issues such as Batman 232, 251, 366, and all Silver Age and Golden Age issues remain strong sellers and we sell equal to or more copies of the new issue of Batman than we do of X-Men in each of our stores.

Pertaining to Batman merchandise, we found that many shops receiving the stuff after so many department and toy specialty shops put a real damper on potential sales. Fortunately, we saw this coming, expected it and cut our orders. One distributor tells us that he lost several accounts to the "Bat glut"; the stores actually went out of business because they ordered too much of this material and then couldn't move it, since most customers had picked up this stuff in places like Spencers, Belks, and K-Mart, et al! And after all of this, one distributor had no less than one third of his catalog devoted to Batman merchandise for October shipping! We sincerely hope that shop owners took a hard look at this situation and either did not order, or considerably down ordered on Batstuff. Our recommendations are (which will come too late to do most of you any good: 1) Make your customers aware of these products and take advance deposits on pricey or chancey items; 2) Check with your distributor as to reliability of receiving the merchandise the month it was solicited for—a good example is that we have sold and shipped hundreds of Batman and Joker costumes nationally, but distributors have only listed this item for October sales; everyone wants them for Halloween, and the probability is there that the comic distributors won't have this expensive item for you in time for the big holiday. Be careful with products of this type! Our advice may have come too late concerning this Batman merchandise, but beware of like situations in the future.

Amazing Spider-Man: Still the single best selling back issue we deal in. In the past month, we have turned up no less than five copies, in varying grade, of Spider-Man #14. We were able to keep this book in stock no longer than the same day we found them! Prices ranged from 25% over Guide to twice Guide. It is probably the most popular single issue we know of and we cannot keep them in stock. It's one of the books for which we have the most want lists.

Other issues which are moving well are all the Ditko issues, numbers 39, 40, 42, 50, 96-98, 100-102, 121, 122, 129, 134, 135, 161, 162, 174, 175, 200-202, 285, and all of the McFarlane issues. The early annuals are hard to find, and we are selling a lot of these in virtually all grades.

The Amazing Spider-Man remains the most popular character in comics, and investment in this book is very solid. It can do nothing at this point but go up in value. Beware, though, of the dealers charging many times Guide. We don't think that it's THAT hot.

Tales Of Suspense and Tales To Astonish: These books are doing phenomenally well! We move all of the super-hero numbers in high grade very, very quickly! They are among the hottest of sellers for us. Needless to say, we are getting anywhere from 25% to twice Guide for certain hard to locate issues.

Silver Age DC Comics: Since we do a great deal of mail order business via want lists, we have noticed a trend over the past three months away from Silver Age DC to Silver Age Marvel. We don't know how to interpret this, as we feel it is merely an anomaly of the particular want lists we have been receiving. However, if we use the same logic of figuring the popularity of TV books from the sixties, then it follows that Silver Age Marvels are going to be more popular than Silver Age DC's due to the fact that more kids were reading Marvels in the mid to late sixties. At any rate, we have no unusual sales figures for DC Silver Age this market report! They are, however, still quite popular and are moving briskly, but at Guide and not above.

Golden Age: We recently bought a tremendous run of pre-code horror and crime, and western comics which have been moving well for us. These books go consistently at Guide in all grades and are wise investments due to the extreme rarity of these titles.

Super Hero Golden Age moves well, also, but we must admit that we have turned up very little of it. Part of the blame for this must go to us, since we have concentrated so heavily on accumulating large amounts of Silver Age. Silver Age is dominating the marketplace.

EC comics are making a move, once again. We are selling what EC's we get in all grades, although high grade copies are, of course, doing better than lesser grade books. The science fiction titles are typically doing better than the others, although strong across the board sales are evident.

Robert Pilk and Robbie Lewis
Mountain Empire Comics and Collectibles
Bristol, VA/Kingsport, TN/Johnson City, TN

This seems to be a crucial time in the history of comics. Most independents are struggling to keep their heads above water. Will Marvel and DC grow so complacent that the smaller publishers are able to make a comeback...or will we regress to the status quo we had in the mid 1970's? We'll find out. Meanwhile, the traditionally slow fall season for comics begins...or does it?

One sure can't tell by looking at upcoming schedules for items shipping this fall. DC is once again pushing for the first place spot they earned last year by releasing lots of Bat-items, including an all-new Batman series, Legends Of The Dark Knight, the very-long-awaited Arkham Asylum graphic album, and beginning their series of Golden Age reprints with the first volume of the Superman archives.

Grant Morrison and Dave McKean's Arkham Asylum will be THE hot item this fall with a story even better than the Dark Knight (Denny O'Neil said it in Atlanta). Of course, interest in the Asylum is very high...the $24.95 cover price is not bothering anyone—people are requesting multiple copies. Another book to watch back-issue tables for is the "prelude" to Arkham Asylum, McKean and Neil Gaiman's excellent Black Orchid, as interest may spill over into this mini-series.

Investors are also saving up for the release of Legends Of The Dark Knight. With this new book being more affordable (if you're buying multiples), it should disappear very quickly. With high interest in the movie still prominent, retailers are gearing this comic up to be a record setter. Sales reaching one million copies? Possibly. If DC has writer Denny O'Neil unleashed for the first five, it will be one great story and one certainly to keep an eye on.

And DC is finally listening to fans by reprinting their early Golden Age stories with the first Superman Archives. This will be a risky project with volumes priced at $39.95, but with every page (ads, text pages) being reprinted, this should turn out to be a book to show non-comic fans and say "this is why I read comics!"

Back issue sales for Batman are slacking off a little, although any issue below #300 still sells as quickly as we find them (work in itself!). People also are believing prices will drop as soon as this "current fad" wears off, but we're seeing no sign of this happening. With the movie due on video this November (a smart thing to do if you're taking over a major corporation like Time, Inc.), fans will continue asking for Batman.

A hot and very nice hardcover coming up will be The Complete Frank Miller Batman. Leather-bound, silver gilding, and a new cover and endpapers by Dean Motter...at $29.95, this is most definitely the buy of the year. With this being the publishing arm of Waldenbooks first graphic album to hit the shops, we'll have to watch the sales and see if they try something like this again. Maybe the Engelhart/Rogers/Austin Detective Comics stories...?

Meanwhile down the street, Marvel seems to be holding out their market percentage. After this summer's horrible "Atlantis Attacks," some Marvel fans are looking very cautiously at "Acts Of Vengeance." This year, fans were buying up the annuals as they were released and complain to us how bad the story was. Nobody wants them...which is why the back issue prices are dead in the water (no pun intended). The current issues of the X-Men are being shaken up with a new team and new direction for the book. Many longtime X-Men fans seem to think Chris Claremont has simply run out of ideas after thirteen years and are dropping it from their reading lists. Will this be the beginning of a new trend for Mutant fans? Even the infamous "Marvel Zombies" are quickly disappearing as word is trickling out that there are other comics besides Marvel.

Silver Age Marvels continue to climb in demand and prices. Books you seldom find in VF to M include Captain America #1 and Iron Man #1—these still very underrated key issues in their prices for high-grade copies. The first twenty issues of Amazing Spider-Man are vanishing from the market. People paying $50 and up for "A Death In The Family" should be looking more wisely for the truly scarce comics. Recent Marvel back issues selling very well include Punisher, Wolverine, Amazing Spider-Man, and early issues of Excalibur. For some reason, we also do very well with certain "oddball" titles like Godzilla, Ghost Rider, and Werewolf By Night.

Star Trek back issues from all publishers sell for above Guide, with the early Gold Key issues in greatest demand. Guide prices may be a little low for the Gold Key issues. The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are also increasing in demand once again, providing the self-copying live action movie does well. Due in part to being in the TMNT action figures line, back issues of Stan Sakai's Usagi Yojimbo are going the way of the Turtles.

The DC "British Invasion" continues as the surprising Animal Man (OK, how many looked at this and said "Animal Man??? C'mon!") from Grant Morrison and Sandman from Neil Gaiman continues to grow in popularity and back issues consistently. Look for Sandman #1 to reach the ten-dollar level soon.

Bell Bks is not all Batman, people. Fans who will gladly pay $10 to $14 for a Keaton or Nicholson T-shirt will have less money to try something new...unless they are driven towards it.

The independent market is beginning to show signs of a comeback. Dark Horse's Aliens and Predator mini-series are changing the way people look at the once-dreaded independents, which also is drawing in the big talent, like Frank Miller and Dave Gibbons' upcoming "Give Me Liberty" series. The older fans are greeting the return of the Green Hornet from Now Comics; the younger fans can be drawn to the cult following behind New England Comics' The Tick. Given the right promotion for these comics, you can come close to matching the best sellers from Marvel and DC.

But the "Big Two" are beginning to help the independents themselves. DC launches their successful Piranha Press imprint with Beautiful Stories For Ugly Children showing continued growth. Our friends at Marvel are giving a shot in the arm to several, including an all-new color special for Slave Labor's Tales From The Heart. The very well done Tales From The Heart will certainly benefit from the increased exposure that a company like Marvel can give (this book only sells 2,500 copies? Turn off your snooze alarm and buy this book!).

The good independents also show the future of comics. Retailers can continue to sell lots of mutants and bats, but once these fans grow tired of these characters, they may leave the comics market altogether. You also have to admit we wouldn't have seen the Dark Knight , Havok and Wolverine, Moonshadow, and other "mature readers" comics from the "Big Two" if pressure wasn't being pushed onto them. As your younger readers grow up, their tastes will change. Remember, Jack Napier says "Look at the future...". This will prove to be something to watch over the coming months.

Alan and Marsha Giroux
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Even though some Update readers may object to this bimonthly publication being used as a forum, we feel it is important if not necessary to elaborate on the current trends and inner-workings of the many faceted comic book industry.

It is apparent to us that there are two schools of retailers developing. Those that deal strictly with the buying and selling of Golden and Silver Age books, and those that sell current comics and recent back issues.

We make this distinction because, after discussing this topic with other retail shop owners, it is becoming increasingly more difficult in purchasing early affordable comic collections and staying afloat with the deluge of new monthly comics. When one is spending thousands of dollars every week to supply three stores with new books, it is really worth paying $1,150 (50% of Guide) for some collector's NM copy of Amazing Fantasy #15 when the same amount of cash could purchase nearly unlimited amounts of recent Punisher, Wolverine, and Batman comics that are good sellers daily? A book such as AF 15 may make a retail shop "look good", but is it worth all the "hard sell" it will take to move the book, if it moves at all?

And, this is where the "two schools" concept enters, because it is normally the convention circuit dealer, those minus store expenses, that move such expensive books. We rarely hear of a retail shop moving $2,000 comics. Of course, we buy and sell early books all the time, but most are still in the "affordable" range (i.e., somewhere in the $500 range or lower). We have had few requests for a mint X-Men #1 (something that occurred often in the last several years) since the price has skyrocketed to $900, but we are inundated with demands for a mint Iron Man #1 or Captain America #100 since these are the latest key books that are still "affordable" in NM shape.

Most customers who see the G+ copy of Iron Man #1 on display at our central store have no interest in it, even though it is reasonably priced at $15. These same people though, are willing to pay "up to double Guide" for it if it is mint.

And herein lies the new trend in pricing. If a dealer is able to get $50 for a NM Captain America #100 even though the last Overstreet Guide list it at $18, should $50 become the norm for all dealers to use? On the flip side of the coin, the last VF+ copy of X-Men #94 we had sat around for a year until we finally moved it for $50, when the Guide had it listed for $100 to $125. Should $50 become the new average price for a VF X-Men #94?

The point is this: the prices have so escalated in the last few Bulletins that we are becoming more leery of buying expensive stock at 50% of Guide (i.e., books valued at $1.000 and above) for fear of the market falling out on these high priced issues. In March of this year we could buy a mint Captain America #100 for $9, now to buy the same book, we have to pay approximately $32, more than triple what it was six months earlier.

Overstreet Updates sell very well for us and the collectors that see these speculative prices are further fueling the fanatical fire by buying up all available (read: affordable) copies of any key Silver Age book, even to the point of having numerous duplicates in their collection. Some collectors who take a spectators view of the back issue market are now asking "how far will it go?"

It is interesting to note that over the last several years with the pricing structure on good vs. mint books changing (i.e., larger percent price spread) that it is having a tremendous effect on collectors' purchasing habits. Until very recently, everyone wanted mint books because they were going up in value faster. But now that many comic values have gone so high so quickly, are we going to see a return to demand on lesser condition books? Possibly on the not so affordable issues such as Amazing Fantasy #15 and Fantastic Four #1. Will this bring the percentage of price variance closer again?

May we offer a suggestion, Jon? Why not send a survey along with our price advisory packages on say the top 50 or 100 back issue comics and take an average of prices and sales of all the markets as a realistic price gauge? That way, if one retailer (rather than several) documents a sale of a given book at a higher price than Guide, we can have a wider basis for determining if it really warrants increasing the value.

End of soapbox speech.

Without sounding redundant, this has been the season of Batman, and in eight years of business, it has given us our best summer to date. Batman products alone have provided huge gross sales, but the picnic on the non-comic Bat merchandise has definitely come to an end. However, Batman comics and trades are stronger than ever. Batman is the number one solid seller in all three of our stores, by far outselling that other #1 seller for years, X-Men, by as much as 25%! Back issues have stabilized for now, with Update #9 currently reflecting very legitimate prices.

Most Batworthy sales to mention: the majority of Batman back issues to be sold in the last two months are from 1980 up, with #400 sold most frequently at $15. Death In The Family TPB sells at $15 taking a far lead over most individual Death In The Family issues, which have stabilized at last reported prices. Year Two from Detective #'s 575-578 are much more requested than Year One back issues, hence their price at a solid $15 each, compared to Year One's $7.50 each. Ten Nights Of The Beast, Cult's, Dark Knight's and Killing Jokes are still movers, but, believe it or not, are being "overshadowed" by the reprint series Shadow Of The Batman, which repeatedly sell at $15 each.

To conclude this report's Bat business, we are reconcentrating our efforts again as a Batman "comic" outlet and putting the Bat merchandise on the back burner, so more hot items like Arkham Asylum, Gotham By Gaslight, and Legends Of The Dark Knight can be given the full display they deserve.

As for other DC's, what's new and not selling is the most interesting item to report. Where are the sales on Hawkeworld? It is one of the most prodigious pieces of work DC has done since Dark Knight. So why isn't it selling? Is it the price? Is it the format? Is it Hawkman? Is this answerable? And what about Justice, Inc.? Yes, we said Justice, Inc.! Does anyone know this was produced, printed and on the stands? A word to the wise! Be leery of Deadman: Love After Death on the horizon. The DC Prestige Format fails again!

And other items? DC's TSR products, all except Gammarauders, are very consistent sellers. We sold out of Advanced Dungeons And Dragons #1, with the last copy selling for $7.50. Animal Man #1 is another hot seller with the last copy selling for $6.50. Recent #1's that sold surprisingly well and have had to be reordered are El Diablo and The Shadow Strikes. Piranha Press's Beautiful Stories For Ugly Children is the only Piranha Press title actually selling.

Because of the summer's phenomenal Batman back issue sales, everything else, including Marvel's, takes a back seat. There have been some real sellers, however. McFarlane's Spider-Man still ranks high with #298 at $12, #299 at $6, and #300 at $10. By the way, #300 must be becoming a difficult issue to find, for we receive numerous phone calls from people around the U.S. looking for a copy. The Assassination Plot story-line is a winner, with Part One now at $2.50.

X-Men over the last year is bogged down in boredom, but issues numbers 200-230 are consistently good sellers. We recently opened up our X-Men back-stock from #100 to #145 for collectors to trade in comics on, something we never allowed when the X-guys were hot! Many back issues from this time period now sell at 50% of Guide.

Other Mutie titles? Excalibur is very strong, with numbers 1-3 at $8, $6.50, and $5.50. New issues sell just about as well as X-Men each month. Ditto for X-Factor, with #1 at $8. Alpha Flight and New Mutants sell well new, but are dregs as back issue sellers. Wolverine? This is one hot mutant! Back issues are hard to keep in stock and new issues continually sell out. New Wolvy #1 is at $10, and #2 is now $8.

And how about the other bad guy called Punisher? He is just as hot as Wolverine, except numerous Punisher issues are harder to find. Numbers six through thirteen are sold out of the regular title and Punisher War Journal #6, retailing at $7.50, is on its way to the "Sorry, out of stock" category.

Twelve and fifteen cent Thors have moved well recently, and early to mid-range Fantastic Four, too. One of our stores recently sold GI Joe #'s 1-15 as a set, a one-time common occurrence that is now quite rare. The new Moon Knight and Dr. Strange series first issues sold well, both selling for $7.50 each.

As for alternatives, the new color Aliens is a huge success, as was Predator. Predator #1's now in stock are second prints. And as of this writing (9-7-89), no Predator #1 first prints have sold as back issues so we can't quote a price higher than cover. Green Hornet #1, expected to sell well, sold even better than "well". Let's hope we can all get more of these.

Tapping The Vein hit the stands this week, and we, unfortunately (and stupidly), severely under-ordered this one. How about that above sentence one more time. Let's hope we can get more of these.

Here's to Acts Of Vengeance providing a strong Fall season. We'll report on that in the next Update.

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It's hard to believe it is already time for another updated Market Report. We have just barely assimilated the August Update, but suppose it's as good a time as any to explore some of the significant dissimilarities between our market (South Texas) and that of the other regions of the country. We'll explain as follows:

General: Here's the market sentiment on a title-by-title basis comparing local conditions to the prices and notations in Update #9. To keep this as short and meaningful as possible, we only highlighted major differences.

Avengers: 60-99 are NOT HOT! In fact, we would probably call them darn right COLD.

Captain America: 241 is HOTTER than a RED JALAPENO PEPPER! It commands a $20 price tag here when you can find one that is really NM/M (without the printer's error). Almost all of them that we see have this cover seam/crease.

Daredevil: #21-52 are NOT HOT! We have not implemented either of the last two price increases, and still aren't moving but a few issues in this range.

Dark Horse Presents: None of these are hot here.

Fantastic Four: 21-47 are COLD (except for 25, 26, and 28). We usually turn one #48 AND one #112 for EACH issue numbered in the above range.

Groo: Is this another joke? He's so cold, we

thought he died.

Hulk: 340 is so hot that it keeps breaking thermometers. It is one of our fastest moving books.

Spider-Man vs. Wolverine: Another winner! Sells as fast as we can display it.

Journey into Mystery: 89-125 just don't sell for us. Maybe some other dealer would consider trading...

Our Army At War: When was the last time you saw a #81? The 1st Sgt. Rock is d... hard to find! We've been after one for months!

Rip Hunter: #1 is another real toughie to get in nice shape. We think it's about the hardest of all the Silver Age DC #1's.

Rock And Roll Comics: A most unusual situation. #1 and #2 are RED HOT. #3 is gathering dust.

Ronin: NO ONE should call this book hot. We can't move them at cover price.

Saga Of Swamp Thing: Thank you for finally reducing #20 and #21 in price. Unfortunately, they weren't lowered enough.

Savage Sword: It's about time these magazines saw a small rise in price. They sell really well here, at about a 1,000:1 ratio compared with Ronin and Swamp Thing.

Silver Surfer: 1st series sells real fast in high grade at Guide+.

Star Trek (GK): #1 is another book that we just can't seem to hold onto. The rest of the run sells well, too.

Star Wars: #1 Regular Edition CAN'T go up, 'cuz NO ONE WANTS IT!

Tales Of Suspense: 52 through 59, and #65 are still top sellers at current Guide prices.

Tales To Astonish: 44 through 60 are great investment books. We have a waiting list for #44's and lots of folks are looking for the others, too.

TMNT: This title, as well as Aliens and Predator, are the best of the alternative press publications. We're selling 2nd printings of Predator #1 just as quickly as the first sold (and almost as many as Batman 436). Turtles #1 (1st print) seems to have found a Texas price of $125. That's what we got for the four we sold in the past two months, and what we got our last one priced at.

Tick: This is a hard to find back issue. Luckily, we've only got a couple of people looking for them.

Vegas Knights: A surprise book here! Word is out that the story line is solid, which is creating some demand. We hope the artwork gets better to match the story.

West Coast Avengers: NOT HOT! NO WAY!

World's Finest: 150 through 300 sell somewhat slowly for us, and we have been maintaining their price as shown in Big Guide #19.

X-Factor: 1-45 sell moderately, but aren't really HOT here.

Golden Age: BATMAN, BATMAN, BATMAN...The prices we have to pay to get Golden Age Batman Comics is outrageous! Further, the prices we have to charge are worse, yet, they keep selling, and selling...Our pricing tends to put Golden Age Batman's at about 30% over Guide, unless they've got a nice Joker cover. These end up about 50% over. Several weeks ago I bought a VF copy of Batman 49 at 15% over the Big Guide price, left it visible on a back counter, and received an offer less than ten minutes later for TWICE what I paid. I declined—Damn that collector in me...

Lately, we've moved a lot of Superman comics between #7 and #100, plus a nearly equal amount of Action comics below #150. So Batman is NOT the only Golden Age book to be selling. Other Golden Age titles that move faster than the others include: Captain America, Detective, More Fun, Green Lantern, All American, and, recently, nice copies of early Archie, Jughead, Betty & Veronica, Laugh, and Katy Keene.

The second tier includes most mainline Timelys, Fawcetts, other DC's Fiction Houses' and EC's. These are all moving faster than they have in the recent past. It is our feeling that the volatile Silver Age market has made folks more aware of the prices of Golden Age books, thereby increasing demand (the willingness to spend on titles that will be nearly impossible to complete sets of). We have included recent actual sales at the end of this market report.

Silver Age: High grade books are selling as fast as we can get them ready for market. Spider-Man and Batman (OOOOPS! there's that "B" word again) lead the way. ALMOST ANY Spidey below 100 and Batman below 200 can be turned in less than a day if correctly graded and priced—even at the revised prices from Update Number 9.

X-Men still sell real well for us, not as hot as they once were, but they're still moving better than all but S'Man and B'Man. All other DC Silver Age comics sell moderately, except for the number 1's. It is impossible to keep any #1 on the shelf (unless we price it out of the market). However, a few of these key issues are much slower than the others, notably JLA 1 and Adventure 247.

Marvels are the Silver Age Crown Jewels! They move at a 2 or 3 to 1 ratio over the Silver Age DC's, EVEN WITH THE PRICES ESCALATING AT AN INCREDIBLE RATE. We're a bit nervous about this phenomena. The recent price jumps have helped significantly in making more quality books become available as collectors are now willing to sell some that they have held for a while. At the current price levels, this is a very healthy situation. Again, we're somewhat nervous about the continuing demand due to the recently more-available supply.

By the way, since our last report, we have gotten in almost 10 Iron Man #1's. Even though they varied in condition, none of them stayed in the stores for more than one day. Additionally, we also turned about the same number of Captain America 100's at the same rate as the Iron Man #1's. The price increases on these two books hasn't hurt demand a bit.

In summary, the Silver Age market continues to be very strong with MARVEL being King.

Odds and Ends: One trend we've noted is an increase in speculators looking for quick hits. Items like Spider-Man 129, Hulk 181, Green Lantern 40 and 59, etc., come to mind. Some of what they're buying now are other DC "Crisis/ Crossover" issues—like Green Lantern 45 and 61, Atom 29, JLA 37 and 38. Marvelites are picking up books like Spider-Man 43 (1st full Mary Jane story?), Daredevil 7 (red costume), and any other weird cover/story/situation, such as What If...? #31 (Wolverine). Introduction books are among another speculation group—items like Vortex 1 (1st Quadrant), and Adventure ### (legion cover with Chameleon Boy that should have been censored, call us for details...), etc.

Finally, we've decided to list the 10 most asked-for Golden Age books that we have had an incredibly hard time locating. See if you agree. We eliminated anything which could have been labelled obscure, so only mainline titles are allowed: Adventure 210, All-Star 7, Batman 48, Flash 86, Superman 76, Detective 58, All-American 16, Our Army At War 81, Detective 168, and All-American 19.

Final PS: Although Batman has been real HOT, we find ourselves in severe disagreement with the extortionate prices of 426 and 427. A LOT of these are showing up now by collectors who are desperate to trade them in for REAL collectibles. Let's see a Guide price decrease FAST in order to match reality.

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Hot Comics: Batman continues to be the hottest new comic going. This title has finally overtaken sales on both X-Men and Wolverine and is continually growing. However, there seems to be a wariness among some dealers as to whether or not Batman will retain the popularity he currently holds in the marketplace. I, for one, am not going to worry about it. The people that are causing Batman to be overwhelmingly popular aren't hyped up civilians that are here today and gone tomorrow, they are either die hard comic book fans developing an interest in Batman or the mini market investor/collectors that buy new in quantity. I think I speak for a majority of my clientele in stating that if DC continues to publish high quality Batman books, then they will continue to buy them.

Batman back issues are also particularly hot, especially Joker appearances. In fact, the Joker is hot in any books he appears in. Following are some books that have Joker cover and story that the Guide makes no mention of, collectors take note: World's Finest Comics— 156 - First Bizzaro Batman and Joker cover and story; 166 - Joker cover and story with future story setting; 177 - Luthor, and Joker cover and story. DC Comics Presents: 71 - Bizarros; 72 - Joker, Phantom Stranger. Wonder Woman: 281-283 - Huntress and Joker Cover and story.

Also hot and in fantastically high demand in our area are the actual Joker run of comics themselves, in higher grades. An actual sale of a #1 in VG/F- brought in $20 and a VF/NM copy fetched $45! In fact, when one customer discovered that a third customer of ours had a perfectly flawless copy of #1, he offered said customer a whopping $125 for the book!!! What is even more surprising is that the third party customer refused the offer and said he thought it was worth more!! This is incredible considering that two short years ago these books were considered common junk. This book could very well turn into the next Hulk 181 or Spidey 129!!

Speaking of Amazing Spider-Man 129, and Hulk 181, these two books are still red hot also with no signs of waning despite countless reprint editions in circulation. I have a want list a mile long for these two books and others that, up until this year, I had a pretty good supply on. Books like: Captain America #100, Hulk #102, Submariner #1, Dr. Strange #169, Captain Marvel #1, and Amazing Spider-Man 121, 122, and 129!. The Silver Age market has increased to an overwhelming apex!

Current documented prices on key Marvels recently sold here: Captain America #100 - $70 NM, Iron Man #1 - $140 NM/M, Dr. Strange - #169 - $20 M, and Fantastic Four #48 - $40 VF/NM.

Other Silver Age selling well are: Action, Adventure (later issues), Flash, Green Lantern, JLA, Superman and Superboy, and World's Finest. In Marvel it goes: Captain America, Hulk, Avengers, Daredevil, Dr. Strange, Amazing Spider-Man, Fantastic Four, and Thor.

Special Points of Interest: OBSCURE MARVEL TITLES ARE HORRIBLY UNDERRATED AND UNDERPRICED!! Has everyone forgotten the seemingly overwhelming price jumps on the obscure DC titles like Anthro, Batlash, Brother Power: Geek, Creeper, and countless others?!? You can expect this kind of thing to happen on the other side of the fence also. For example: Astonishing Tales (Marvel) featured Dr. Doom with classic art by Wally Wood, Ka-Zar, and sported a 12 cent or 15 cent cover price. And how much does a book that boasts all of this, plus the fact that it is almost 20 years old list for? Why, it's only the same price as the new issue of Power Pack ($2-$3). This is almost criminal that some dealers are letting these books go for this, knowing that later on they will most definitely become high dollar books. Marvel's old monster comics are another example of the people who read Werewolf By Night in the early 70's used the books to start fireplaces or as coffee coasters during a football game because in the past dealers wouldn't buy the things because they were worthless. There also aren't as many available as compared to Avengers or Fantastic Four, etc., because they didn't exactly set the world on fire with sales when they were first for sale to begin with. I would expect sales on these older books to continue to pick up as well as prices on them.

Current documented sales on key Marvel horrors recently sold here: Tomb of Dracula #1 - $10, Werewolf by Night #1 - $7.50, #32 - $15, and #33 - $10.

Newer back issues which are hot in our area include: Animal Man, Shadow, Doom Patrol (19-22), Legion of Superheroes, Legion 89, Sandman, Hellblazer, and Question. For Marvel: Punisher and Punisher War Journal, Dr. Strange, West Coast Avengers 42-46, Thor 337-340, Amazing Spider-Man 2980325, X-Men 150-250, Mutant Massacre Tie-Ins, Daredevil 254-263, and X-Factor 24-26. As far as independents go, hot ones are still there, you just have to know where to look for them. TMNT, Concrete, Robotech, Predator, Aliens, Judge Dredd, and a few others. Don't count out potential sales on quality independents in the heat of the current Bat craze.

Finally, we come to the new issue market, which is continually thriving by leaps and bounds due to the continuing array of products being released by the big two and friends.

Hot: Nightmare on Elm Street, X-Men, X-Factor, Quasar, Dr. Strange, Moon Knight, Avengers, Hulk, Wolverine, Batman, Detective, Superman, Sandman, Animal Man, Amazing Spider-Man, Shield, Daredevil, and literally countless others. A good sign of a prospering market is when the new hot comics are too numerous to list them all.

Bad News Department: Todd McFarlane is rumored to be leaving as penciller on Amazing Spider-Man, this may cause a slight downfall in Spidey sales. It will undoubtedly cause a slight decrease in sales of his back issues (as we experienced when he departed from the pages of Hulk). John Burne is quitting (what else is new?!?) Sensational She Hulk. This will undoubtedly cause her sales.

Good News Department: Expect Walt Simonson's Fantastic Four stint to do well in any store. One can also expect the upcoming Acts Of Vengeance multi-crossover event to outdo Inferno simply for nostalgic reasons of using all the Lee/Kirby villains in unison. If Arkham Asylum isn't one of the biggest money makers of the year, then I'll be shocked...invest in at least one copy, collectors! Remember what I said earlier concerning classic Marvel horror when Epic Comics releases Heliraiser. Also watch for DC's collected Frank Miller's Batman hardcover which is due out sometime before Christmas.

It is rumored, also, that Mattel has picked up the rights to do an animated Adolescent Black Belt Hamsters series and a toy line. Could it be true?

On a closing note, I would like to state that it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain Silver Age books at reasonable prices in this area. If you have a collection for sale, we would be more than happy to examine a list. Or if you live in the area, we would be more than happy to view the books in person. Please contact us through our ad in this issue.

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9/9/89

I hope that this U.K. market report will be of interest to all or our colleagues and collectors alike in the United States, and help to bring the two markets closer together. As we are, if not the largest, certainly one of the largest dealers in the U.K., we have a very good feel for the Golden and Silver Age market. All of the prices quoted are in U.S. dollars rather than English Pounds at the latest exchange rate which is approximately $1.60 to the pound.

The British market is not that dissimilar to the one in the United States except to say that what's hot with you is not necessarily hot with us and visa-versa. For example, Spidey 129, whilst being a hot book over here, and in reasonable demand will only sell for around $70-$80 in NM, whilst we can get up to $60 for Spidey 122. One of the big differences in prices is caused by the fact that a lot of books in the early seventies were not distributed over here, thus making them scarce, that coupled together with an added demand due to a first or cameo appearance, or the death of a character, etc., will ensure that we will be looking at at least double Guide for these books. In addition to non-distribution, we also have to contend with the various books that over the years had a low distribution in the U.K., for example, Fantastic Four 7, which in this country is in the "rare" category and fetches anything up to double Guide, in good shape. We recently sold one in VF for $400! Such is life, anyway the market report proper...

We have never been so busy since our return from San Diego, and yes, you guessed it, Batman! The Movie opened here on August 11, so the "bat" books we brought back with us were in great demand. Within two days of our return, we sold a restored VG Batman #1 for $6,900, a NM Batman #11 for $900, a FN Batman #11 for $960, and a VF Batman #9 for $1,020! We have also been selling countless sets of Death In

The Family, but wait for it, at approximately $45 a set! Yes, $45 a set. That's all the market will allow over here. However, we are getting $40 for Cult 1, and $80 for Son Of Demon hardback. You see the differences! Batman has always been a consistent seller for us, even when you guys were shoving him into your half-price boxes, we've sold him well. If only the same could be said for some of the related titles. Detective was also okay and is now in great demand, but Batman And The Outsiders, Batman Family and World's Finest...forget it!

We have reasonably priced World's Finest from Golden Age through Silver Age just sitting in our boxes gathering dust. We take them to the cons for an airing and bring almost all of them home again. We do sell the odd one through our mail order service (World's Best #1 FN/VF for $1,600), but apart from that, very slow. We have spoken to a lot of other dealers over here who are experiencing the same thing. I originally put the World's Finest problem down to the fact that Superman was in it, and he was so slow that he made books like New Talent Showcase look HOT, but all that changes recently when all of the Superman titles started moving again...when I say ALL of the Superman titles, there is one exception...World's Finest!

Golden Age: The Golden Age market in the U.K. is not a big one. We are one of the few dealers who stock them and we have some regular customers for these books in all grades. Golden Age Superman, Superboy and Action aren't that busy, although they do sell eventually. We are convinced that the market is gradually growing over here and we are quite happy to sit on the stock if the prices are right. Captain America sells well, usually in top notch condition. Flash just sold a #7 in VF for $1,280 and a #10 in NM for $1,000. Early Flash is consistent, but sells for Guide or less, in all grades. We are currently negotiating the sale of our FN/VFN Detective 27 for around $22,000 and just sold a VF Detective 33 for $6,400.

Silver Age: Silver Age has always been good for us, but the last couple of months have been the busiest we have ever experienced. Both Marvel and DC are flying out of the door. We just can't keep the "keys" in stock. Hence our 6 buying trips, so far, this year to the U.S.! When it comes to the "keys" in anything better than VF, you can throw the Guide out of the window. To illustrate the point, here is a list of some of our recent sales: DC - VF Showcase #4 - $2,200; FN Showcase #8 - $600; VF Showcase #14 - $900; NM Showcase #20 - $100; FN Detective #225 - $600; VF Flash #105 $1,200; FN+ Adventure #247 - $1,400; NM Adventure #267 - $400; NM Green Lantern #1 - $1,000. This list goes on...more next time. Marvel: VF Amazing Fantasy #15 - $3,000; FN/VF Spidey #1 - $2,600; VF Daredevil #1 - $800; VF Avengers #1 - $1,000; VF Journey Into Mystery #83 - $1,200. You get the picture? The lower grades sell for Guide or just over, and we can sell as many of them as we can get.

There has been great interest recently in titles such as Aquaman, Hawkman, Rip Hunter, and Metal Men. We have a standing order from one customer for complete runs of Aquaman and Metal Men, including the Showcase issues, in VF or better...we're still looking! Legion stuff has slowed, although we can still sell as many Adventure 247's and 267's as we can lay our hands on. Apart from Batman, Marvel Silver Age (in top grades) is outselling DC at the moment. Our customers are willing to pay multiples of Guide for early Spideys, Fantastic Four's Avengers, Journey Into Mystery, and X-Men. We are also getting over Guide for Iron Man #1 and Sub-Mariner #1. I hasten to add that the over Guide prices only apply to VF or better. It is my opinion that as time goes on the gap will widen between the prices for FN and NM books, as the higher grades really are becoming more and more difficult to find. It is not uncommon for us to get calls from customers in their thirties who are just coming back to comics. They often ask our advice as to what grades they should buy, depending on their budget, and a lot of these customers now have considerable disposable incomes, we would advise in most cases that they go for high grade books not only for their investment potential, but also, as you all know, they are a pleasure to own. I am certain that it is very unlikely that, once these books are sold, they are going to surface again in the near future. We have one extremely wealthy customer, who incidentally works on the stock exchange in London, who has never read or taken the books our of their bags once we have sold them to him; his purchases are purely investments. With that sort of thing happening, coupled together with out obvious shortage of supply compared to the United States, it wouldn't surprise me if by this time next year we, in the U.K. were looking at triple Guide for the keys.

Other Stuff: The independent market has died over here. I'm going to the funeral next Wednesday! It's a cremation where us dealers will be given the opportunity to throw our huge stocks of independents into a furnace and mourn the huge loss to us all of the money we have put into these books. The only exception to this is Greo. Greo still sells very well indeed, but as for the others...yuk! Oh, I almost forgot, there is another exception, but that's a British independent, 2000AD, which you Americans have no interest in, do you? Well, that's what I've been told by lots of U.S. dealers, and if that is the case, perhaps someone would explain to me why we are getting up to a dozen calls a week from collectors all over the U.S. about 2000AD's. Their story is a familiar one, their local dealer doesn't stock them, the dealer in the next state doesn't stock them, no mail order dealer stocks them, no one stocks them! We are selling a tremendous amount of these books to the U.S.; come on U.S. dealers, wake up, there IS a demand for 2000AD's in your country.

The newer stuff is very predictable. Batman, X-anything, Punisher, Wolverine, and Spidey are all great. Also selling very well here is Hellblazer, although we are starting to see it fade slightly, Sandman, Swamp Thing, Flash, Green Arrow, and Moon Knight are all okay. At this time, we have about 50 advance orders for Arkham Asylum and we expect that to be the big winner this Autumn...sorry, this Fall! As I write this, my colleagues are preparing our stock for UKAC, that's our version of San Diego without the sun. It's a two-day con where anybody who's anybody in comics in the U.K. turns up. It's a short trip for people like Brian Bolland and Dave Gibbons, who, I'm told, will be there along with a number of other artists and writers, some of which will be coming in from the U.S. It should be a good con and everyone's looking forward to it. I'll let you know how it goes! We are out to Florida on another buying trip on September 21, and then we'll be in New York for Thanksgiving (what IS Thanksgiving?). Until the next time, cheerio.

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We would like to thank Jon Warren for inviting us to participate in this latest edition of the Overstreet Price Update. As dealers of Golden and early Silver Age comic books, we hope that our insight into the current market will prove useful to the readers of this publication.

The main problem that we face is the inability to locate and purchase books to replenish our Golden and Silver Age inventory. As the number of new Golden Age collections decrease, competition for the collections that do surface has become very intense. It is not unusual for us to offer full Guide for collections of early Golden Age comics. These percentages were unheard of ten years ago, but this is 1989, and times have certainly changed.

Another problem we have found is the lack of grading standards in today's market. We can honestly say that most of the Golden and Silver Age we see being sold at conventions are clearly overgraded. If comic books are to be considered a legitimate collectible and investment, certain grading standards must be followed. The type of grading that was employed in the 1960's and 1970's must come to an end. I have seen many serious comic book collectors and investors quickly desert the comic market because they had gotten "burned" once too often by dishonest dealers. In order to attract new investors into the comic market, a level of professionalism must be maintained.

DC: As always, DC remains the hottest comic company. With the new appreciation for Batman titles, copies of early Detective Comics and Batman are consistently selling

for over Guide. We now believe that Detective #27 is the most valuable comic book surpassing ever so slightly the value of Action #1. However, we also believe that the Batman #1 has become the hottest Golden Age comic book. Collectors have taken a new look at this book and fully appreciate its importance in comic history. A high grade copy of this book sold at the San Diego Comic Con for $16,000 cash. We sold a VG/F Batman #1 in May for $6,000, #100 VF/NM for $750, and Detective #38 NM for $9,200. #29 F/G - $525, #31 G - $900, #35 G - $325, and #33 FA - $800.

In general, all Golden and Silver DC are selling very well, particularly higher grades and lower grades. The demand for books such as Adventure #40, #48, Flash #1, All American #16, and More Fun #73 are at an all time high. We recently sold a NM Adventure #40 for $3,900 and a VF+ Flash #1 for $5,300. Collectors seem to be focusing on the separate first appearances of the members of the JSA such as Dr. Midnite and The Atom. Most collectors agree that Adventure Comics between #40 and #71 remain extremely underpriced. In the coming years, demand for these books will heat up.

As always, the supply of pre-superhero DC falls short for the collectors whose are purchasing these books. Demand for pre-superhero Adventures and More Funs remains extremely high. Copies of New Fun and The Big Book Of Fun Comics are extremely difficult to find, especially for More Fun and Better. We recently paid $7,000 for a fine minus copy of Detective #1 and subsequently resold it for $8,200. Prices on these books seem to be determined on a case by case basis rather than a percentage of the Overstreet guide. We feel that this is a trend that will continue, particularly for early Golden Age books.

Most of the mainstream DC titles such as All-Star, All-American, Flash Comics, Green Lantern, More Fun and Wonder Woman remain very strong. Collectors are starting to realize that selected issues from these titles are legitimately scarce in comparison to issues from titles such as Superman and Batman. Some recorded sales were Adventure #75 VF/NM - $525, All-American #16 VG - $2,900, #17 VF/NM - $2,000, All-Star #8 NM - $2,300, #33 VF/NM - $700, Wonder Woman #1 VG/F - $800, More Fun #55 VF++ - $1,950, #73 VF - $1,400.

Over the past two years, we have seen a dramatic rise in the demand for Silver DC such as Flash, Brave And The Bold, Showcase, and Green Lantern. The competition between collectors looking for high grade Silver Age is intense. We recently sold a Mint copy of Brave And The Bold #28 for $1,600 and a VF/NM Aquaman #35 for $1,200. Issues of Showcase #'s 4, 8,13, 14, 22, Detective #225 and Brave And The Bold #28 are simply impossible to find in strict NM. We feel that the increases for Silver Age Batman and Detective in the last two updates reflect the true value of these books and also feel that an additional increase in the next price Guide would be unwise at this time.

Another interesting trend that we have seen over the past year is the increase in demand for DC from the 1963 - 1968 period. Titles such as Metal Men, Hawkman, Atom, and even Metamorpho are difficult to keep in stock. These are the same books that many dealers could not give away three years ago. In early September, we purchased a NM/M Metal Men #1 for $125.

Marvel: It will come as no great surprise to fellow dealers that Silver Age Marvels are selling well. We get about 50 calls a day from people looking for VF or better Spider-Mans, Fantastic Fours, etc. The once affordable Spider-Man #1 is affordable no longer. We recently sold a NM+ copy of VG copies Man #1 for $4,000 and a perfect copy of Fantastic Four #1 for $4,000. While all Marvel titles across the board are selling well, we would advise our customers to be very cautious when buying Marvels for over Guide. While it is true that a NM/M copy of Amazing Fantasy #15 is worth over #3,000, a collector should not consider $1,500 for a fine copy to be a wise investment. Just because a book has a great deal of activity at the higher grades, a collector should not assume that VG copies will be effected. There is such a thing as paying too much for a comic book. In the same way that collectors are rediscovering later Silver Age DC, they are also rediscovering later Silver Age Marvels. We have had some difficulty in stocking mid-1960's Tales Of Suspense, Tales To Astonish, Spider-Man, Journey Into Mystery, etc. Even though we can't understand why, collectors are obsessed with paying over Guide for Iron Man #1. However, we view certain later Marvels such as Tales Of Suspense #58 and #63 as good investments.

Timely: After a long period of dormancy, Timely is definitely on the move. It seems that all Timely titles, including Captain America, All-Winners, All-Select, Marvel Mystery, Daring Mystery, Young Allies, USA, Sub-Mariner, and Human Torch, with emphasis on Captain America, are selling extremely well. In the past 6 months, we have sold approximately $220,000 worth of Timelys in a wide variety of grades. Included in these sales were the issues of Captain America #1 and two copies of Marvel Comics #1. We fully expect continued interest for Timely in coming months. Recent sales included an unrestored F/VF Marvel #1 for $16,900 and a VF/NM Captain America #1 for $6,700.

Fawcett: Fawcett sales in the past year have been very good. Due to the fact that Fawcetts are somewhat more affordable than DC or Timely, many collectors are having great success in collecting titles such as Captain Marvel and Whiz. We feel that Whiz #2 (#1) remains an extremely difficult book to find in an unrestored, high grade condition. While some dealers claim that this book is difficult to sell, we feel that the opposite is true. Some recorded sales are Whiz #2 VG/F - $4,000, #2 F/ G - $2,200, Captain Marvel #1 VF+ - $6,000, Master #21 NM+ - #1,400.

Centaur: As always, the supply of Centaurs can not meet the demand from collectors. This is especially true for Centaurs from the 1936 to 1939 period. The most demand came from Funny Pages, Detective Picture Stories, Funny Picture Stories, Arrow, and Amazing Mystery Funnies. We strongly believe that copies of Detective Picture Stories #1, Funny Picture Stories #1, and Comic Magazine #1 are grossly underpriced. Some recorded sales were Amazing Man #5 FA+ - $500, Arrow #1 G+ - $1,800, Funny Pages 2 #10 VF - $1,000, Funny Pages 3 #7 VF/NM - $500, Detective Picture Stories #1 F++ - $1,200.

MLJ: We were happily surprised at how well titles such as Pep, Top-Notch, Hangman, Zip, and Blue Ribbon sold. There seems to be a good deal of genuine interest in the pre-Archie MLJ comics. This is especially true for any Hangman comics such as Pep #17, Special #1 and Hangman #2-up. While interest in the early issues of Archie titles such as Archie Comics, Betty And Veronica, Jughead, etc., remained strong, later issues were slow. Some recorded sales were Pep #17 G - $115, #22 NM/M - $1,400, Special #1 VF/NM - $650.

Fox: Interest in this publisher remained moderate and steady with the possible exception of early issues of Fantastic comics, Wonder Comics, Wonder World, and Mystery Man, which sold very well. Demand was high for all of Wonder Comics #1, which was quite difficult to locate in high grade. In August, we paid over $3,000 for an unrestored NM copy of this book. Some recorded sales were Wonder World #3 F+ - $350, Blue Beetle #1 VF - $600.

Lev Gleason: While crime titles such as Crime Does Not Pay and Crime And Punishment remained steady, copies of Daredevil Comics, Silver Streak, and early issues of Boy Comics sold extremely well. Some recorded sales were Silver Streak #1 NM/M - $2,800, #4 NM/M - $600. Daredevil #4 NM/ M - $515, and Boy Comics #10 F/VF - $200.

Disney: Collectors were all searching for VF or better issues of Barks Ducks and Early Walt Disney Comics And Stories. Copies in high grade sold very well, but lower grade copies were slow. We received many requests for the three Barks March Of Comics, but were only able to locate a very small number to offer to our customers. We do feel that Vacation Parade #1 and Christmas Parade #1 are overpriced and should be lowered in the Guide at least 15 -20%. Some recorded sales were Walt Disney Comics And Stories #1 VF/ NM+ - $3,500, March Of Comics #4 NM/M - $3,200, and Four Color #9 VF - $1,600.

Classics: The contrast between the demand for early, high grade original Classics and lower grade early reprints was quite remarkable. Strict VF or better original copies of Classics Comics #1-25 were basically nonexistent. The vast majority of what we were able to purchase were sold below fine and sold moderately well. Some recorded sales were Classics Comics #1 F+ - $1,900, #5 VG - $200, #43 (2nd) VF- - $150.

Quality: The demand for Quality titles remained moderate with a slight increase for early Lou Fine/Will Eisner covers. By far, the best Quality title is Police Comics with copies of #1-20 selling extremely well at Guide. Some recorded sales were Police #1 F - $775, Plastic Man #1 VG- - $190, Smash Comics #14 VG/VF- - $199.

Fiction House: The demand for titles from Fiction House remained strong. Early issues of Planet and Jumbo Comics sold extremely well at Guide and above. Copies of the large sized Jumbo Comics remain very underpriced in the Guide. A special note should be made about Planet Comics #15 which is far and away the rarest Planet. Offers of 300% of Guide have come to no avail. Some recorded sales were Planet Comics #1 NM+ - $2,600, Jumbo #2 F- - $1,5000, #4 G - $425, #5 F - $1,000, #7 VF - $1,200, #7 FA - $300.

Miscellaneous: There seems to be renewed interest in copies of Air Fighters with issues selling extremely well at Guide. There also seems to be strong interest in comics with L.B. Cole covers which sell well at 120% of Guide.

Early Dell titles such as The Funnies and Popular sold very well at Guide in all grades. Copies of Famous Funnies #1-25 sold very well when they were offered for sale which was not very often. These books remain quite scarce, especially in higher grades. Charlton Comics sold very well, especially the Steve Ditko issues. Several months ago, we sold a complete set of NM/M Ditko Charlton for 120% of Guide.

Activity on the EC line of comics was quite mixed. Copies of the sci-fi and horror EC titles sold very well in VF or better. Lower grades of these titles and most EC war titles remained slow to moderate. Sales of Mad comic books were numerous in all grades. Some recorded sales were Mad #1 NM - $650, Weird Fantasy #13 VF/NM - $500, Moon Girl #5 VF - $300, Weird Science -Fantasy #29 F - $135.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers for their continued support. Until next time...

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Well, here we are...the summer of BATMAN is winding down and with it the 1980's. While Batmania will continue for quite a while, some people have started collecting other 60's titles. Some obvious standouts are: Atom, Aquaman, Hulk, Captain America, and The Fantastic Four. But it seems the most popular 60's titles are shorter run titles like Nick Fury, Silver Surfer, Not Brand Echh, Rip Hunter, and DC war titles.

While Batmania marches on, Marvel holds a lion's share of the market. With Spider-Man titles selling better than Mutant titles, there is little doubt that Spidermania will pick up where Batmania leaves off. Mutants still sell well, but they are just consistent. Punisher and Punisher War Journal are good in both new and back issue sales. Most other Marvel titles are good sellers, but are only fair in back issue sales. The only consistency in demand back issues are Spider-Man (any) and X-Men (about #160 up), plus Iron Man and some New Mutants. Some recent sales include: Amazing Adventures #2 F - $50, #5 VF - $40, Spider-Man #20 F+ - $45 #39 and 40 Mint - $75 (pair), #42 NM - $25, $50 F+ - $40, #96-98 Mint - $60 (set), #298-300 Mint - $22 (set), Avengers #6 F+ - $40, #57 and 58 Mint - $40 (pair), Captain America #100 VF- - $55, Daredevil #2 F+ - $110, #3 F+ - $70, Fantastic Four #8 F - $120, #14 VF+ - $80, #25 F+ - $45, Annual 1 VF - $80, Hulk #102 NM/M - $55, #182 VG - $14, Sub-Mariner #1 NM - $40, and X-Men #63 Mint - $25.

Marvel Predictions: Spidey will grow even HOTTER with "Acts Of Vengeance", but after McFarlane leaves, be careful! The Fantastic Four are getting Simonson, so that is going to be hot. Other than that, Marvel will just keep its lion's share of the market.

DC is riding the success of Batman by putting out a whole slew of merchandise. The Dark Knight is DC's strongest seller in new and backissues far above anything else they have. But what else do they have? Hot 60's stuff includes: Brave And The Bold, Showcase, Doom Patrol, Metal Men, World's Finest, any DC War and Brother Power The Geek. The only 70's stuff that sells is Batman or Batman-related. In the 80's, Watchmen is moving better again and will probably pick up when the movie gets going. Catwoman is still hot and so is the new Sandman. Anything with Batman seems to sell, but I think that trend has hit a peak. Some recent sales include Atom #5 VF - $25, Batman #148 F - $30, #176 F - $18, #200 M - $60, Year One Set - $30, Detective #226 F - $180, #265 VF - $80, #400 M - $20, Year Two Set - $40, Flash #112 VF - #32, #2 F+ - $20, Rip Hunter #6 VF - $18, #7 F+ - $14, Showcase #31 VF - $28, #33 F - $20, #35 F - $32, #43 NM - $140, World's Finest #82 VF - $50, #87 VG - $20, #110 F+ - $15.

DC Predictions: Watch our for Arkham Asylum and Gotham By Gaslight! They will be HOT! Also, the new World's Finest looks like it will be a big seller. Watch our bor both Star Trek series, they are picking up. Last but not least, Gregory from Piranha looks like it will be hot!

Meanwhile, in the wonderful world of Independents, there is lots of new and exciting stuff happening. First, the new Classics Illustrated will blast off soon and it looks like it will be good. Plus, it will also definitely help sales of the old Classics, so watch out. Open Season is back and better than ever, let's hope it stays. Watch for the play "Open Season" opening this November in San Francisco; it should be great! While back issue Independents are pretty much dead, some new issues fly off the shelves. This includes Love And Rockets, Omaha, and Cherry. All are selling well to a loyal audience. Adults, watch out for the Cherry movie opening this winter! Sure to make more people notice this hot underground title.

On the Golden Age front, we can't get enough. We have no Batman below 100 and no Detective below 150. More Fun And Adventure, even Marvel Mystery, is becoming hard to find in any grade. They all sell just about as fast as we can get them, and we always want more.

One other thing that's become bigger in collectibles: Toys, games, action figures, and models are all hot sellers. If it's superhero or Star Trek, it seems to be popular right now. Captain Action, Major Matt Mason, James Bond, the Green Hornet and many other 60's toys are enjoying a return to popularity that they haven't seen in years. So keep an eye out for those also.

Sean Linkenback
Showcase Collectibles
Atlanta, GA

New Books

Marvel: Still the market leader as a whole with X-Men, X-Factor, and Excalibur, but activity has been slowing recently on both new and back issues of these titles. They still sell very well, but collectors seem to be growing tired of them. Amazing Spider-Man, on the other hand, has been steadily rising in sales every month, as both a new and back issue. It will not surprise me in the least if/when this title overtakes X-Men as best selling Marvel title. Spider-Man #298 easily brings $12, and #300 is bringing 10. Sales on the other two Spidey books are up also (although no where near Amazing's level). Stock up on Spectacular Spider-Man #1's now. I believe this book will really take off as the series moves closer to #200. We get $14 for them now and they move very well.

Wolverine and Punisher are next on the best seller's list. Wolverine #17 has been selling very well, and has created more interest in the other back issues as well, while Punisher War Journal #6 and #7 are bringing $6 and $4, respectively.

Avengers and Fantastic Four have both been on an upswing. Demand is up for all three Avengers' books, and Acts Of Vengeance looks to be a smash success. Silver Surfer is hot. The new Kree/Skull war has stirred up interest in this title.

Daredevil, Hulk, Iron Man, Captain America, and SHIELD are all steady sellers, while What If...? is doing much better as is Doctor Strange. This comes as a bit of a surprise as this was never a hot title, but still issues sells better than the last, and a lot of interest is being shown in the upcoming battle with the Hobgoblin. The Doc Doom/Doc Strange graphic novel was absolutely beautiful and sold out the week it came in. And the old standby Groo still sells okay as a new issue but remains hot as a back issue. The first appearance of his god in #29 is being asked for a lot by fans.

Marvel may not be doing anything earth-shattering, but they are sticking with getting-out-on-time, proven sellers.

DC: Otherwise known as the house that Batman built. The Batman movie has come, had record-breaking business, and now will be out on home video already. This is the same pattern that the Batman comics are travelling in. They are still hot—no question about that, but they have slowed a considerable amount since the beginning of the summer. Prices just shot up too much too fast to keep the collector interested. Death in the Family has peaked for us at about $75, while #417 has topped off at $12. Killing Joke sells steadily at $15 - $20 (one dealer at the Atlanta Fantasy Fair had a stack that he brought with a huge sign selling copies for $12 each—a nd he didn't even sell out!). The Mudpack story-line in Detective is selling very well as is A Lonely Place Of Dying, and the Arkham Asylum GN looks to be a huge success.

The JLA/JLE crossover is receiving lots of promotion and is doing well at the cash register. Animal Man has been very hot, going new readers every month and is still an easy sell at $6 Hawkworld has been a nice surprise hit, the first issue sat around for a couple of weeks, but was gone by the time #2 came out and is now bringing $5.

Dungeons nd Dragons continues to renew interest in sword and sorcery comics. Forgotten Realms has sold very well although, surprisingly, Dragonlance seems to be rather sluggish.

Action and Superman continue to be steady sellers, as does Green Arrow, Flash, and Wonder Woman. Most collectors seem to be looking forward to the Legend Of The Dark Knight and Green Lantern special.

Independents: Aliens II has risen up to take the place of Aliens as best selling independent. Dark Horse continues to put out top-notch comics and the fans are very supportive of their efforts. Flaming Carrot continues to be hot both as a new and back issue, while Cerebus sells well as a new issue, but reprints have hurt back issue sales considerably. The Turtles are hot for the present issue and for the past six to seven months, but the first issues have slowed. We had first prints of #'s 2-4 (including the alternate cover #3) at the Fantastic Four, but not one person asked about them. It seems that for the price of a #1, people would rather invest in a nice copy of Iron Man #1 and Captain America #100, or any of a score of other nice Silver Age books.

Silver Age

Marvel: Amazing Spider-Man is an amazing back issue. All NM 12 cent cover price issues of Spider-Man bring over Guide. At the AFantastic Four, Spider-Man overtook Batman as our best selling back issue title. The hardest issue to find in high grade is #9, we are offering $325 for a NM/MT copy and have yet find one. Are there any out there? Other especially hard to find issues in NM are issues 14, 126, 25, 28, 29, 35, 39, 44 and 50. We had copies of 10 and up in VF or better with duplicates of several issues in the 20's and 30's, and sold them all at the AFantastic Four. We were getting 120% Guide for the VF copies and 133% for the VF/NM copies. In the post #50's issues, #129 is the most asked for. This brings $180-200 in NM/MT condition. Other keys/semi-keys like #'s 31, 90, 94, 100, 102, 121, 122, 124, and 135 are also difficult to obtain.

Amazing Adventures #1 has been asked for a lot. This, THE first Marvel Silver-Age hero, and this book is arguably as important as Detective #225, and certainly as hard to find in high grade.

Avengers #1-3 are hot in all grades, as are copies of #'s 9, 11, 19, 25, 48, 57, 58, and 100. Avengers #4, on the other hand, has slowed in all but the highest grades. It seems that collectors are ignoring this issue as they try to hunt down copies of Caps' early Tales Of Suspense appearances. Captain America #100 is still red hot and shows no signs of slowing.

All other 12 and 15 cent cover price issues of Cap are hot at slightly over Guide. Daredevil #'s 1-10, 16 and 17 are also hot. We sold a copy of #1 in VF- for $275, and a NM set of #'s 16 and 17 for $65.

Although not in Spider-Man's class, early issues of Fantastic Four are in steady demand, most notably #'s 5, 6 10, 12, 25, 28, 45, and 48-50. Fantastic Four #5 is asked for most often. We sold a copy in F for $140, and could easily sell several copies in VF or better at well over Guide, but we simply can't find any.

Hulk is selling better than it has in four years; we sold copies of #102 and #181 in VF/NM for $45 and $135, respectively. Issues #103-143 are moving well at slightly over Guide prices, and although we are asked for copies of #'s 1-6, we have not been able to locate any nice copies.

Iron Man #1 is rapidly becoming a very key book. The price on this will probably double in the next two to three years. We sold a F/VF copy of #1 for $80. Issues #2 40 and 100 are easy sellers also.

JIM and Thor are not as strong as most Silver Age Marvels, but there is steady demand for #'s 90-100 in high grade, and any copies of #'s 112, 126, 158, and 193.

Considering how slow Strange Tales was a few years ago, it is amazing to see how hot it is now. It is nearly impossible to find NM/MN copies of #'s 101-120. We are offering $350 for a NM/MT copy of #110 but have yet to find one. Demand for #135 has not slowed, and we get $30 for VF/ NM copies. There is strong demand for #151 and #159; we are getting $30 for these in NM. Tales Of Suspense and Tales To Astonish are nearly as hot as Spider-Man. It is impossible to keep up with the demand for Suspense #'s 57-66. Almost every one of these issues is a key and sell for over Guide in any shape. Almost every one of these issues is a key and sell for over Guide in any shape. We sold a VF+ copy of #58 for $75, and VG/F copy of #57 for $20. I feel these are $100 issues in NM. Other sales include #63 in VF for $20, #64 in VF for $12, and $15 each for a #65 and $66 in VF. There is still a lot of potential in these issues. The earlier Iron Man issues are equally hot; we sold VF copies of #'s 42, 48, and 53, all for over Guide. Tales To Astonish is just as hot; a NM #57 for $28, and a F/VF copy of #59 for $30.

Only the key issues of X-Men have been selling for us recently. We can and do sell all the copies of #1 and #94 that we find, and issues #28, #35, #36, and the special #1 issues do well, but the mid-run issues have slowed considerably.

DC: Action and Adventure, with the notable exceptions of Action #'s 272 and 282, and Adventure #'s 264 and 271, are titles that have very little action at all. Aquaman, Atom, and Hawkman are all hot. These titles were already bargains, and as the prices rise on the late 60's DC's and Marvels, they become even more so. We recently sold a Hawkman #1 in NM for $110, and a VG Aquaman #1 for $40.

Batman, of course, is the hottest DC title, but the prices have stabilized on 98% of the issues, a few exceptions being #100, #171, and #200. We sold a VG copy of #171 for $25, and a NM/MT #200 for $60. This title is still hot, but has slowed considerably from a few months ago. Detectives have slowed even more, and with the exception of some 10 issues and #'s 298, 327, 359, 387, and 400, are only moderate sellers, although we did sell VF/NM copies of #387 and #400 to another dealer for $18.

Brave And The Bold is being asked for, with particular interest in the Hawkman issues, as well as the Teen Titans and Metamorpho. We get $20 for VF/NM copies of #57.

Flash and Green Lantern are still in strong demand, especially the 10 cent issues. Flash #'s 110, 112, 113, and 114 are in very high demand, especially in high grade. Green Lantern #45 and #59 are also very strong. We sold a VF/NM copy of #45 for $18, and a VF+ copy of #59 for $85.

House Of Mystery and House of Secrets are beginning to show some demand, especially House Of Mystery #143 (1st Manhunter). We get $20 for this issue. People have also been asking for Our Army At War, especially #81, but we have not seen a copy in quite some time.

Showcase #'s 1-40 have always been tough books to find in high grade, and now more and more collectors are

turning to the later issues as well. Numbers in short supply include 60-65, 73-75. We have sold copies of #60 and #73 in VF/NM for $15 each. This title has probably the best investment value of all the Silver Age titles (Spider-Man being a close second). A great many of these books are under-valued and have excellent room for growth.

Wonder Woman is being mentioned only because a couple of people have asked about #105, but we have not seen a copy in a couple of years.

Golden Age: Needless to say, all Golden Age books are in high demand, especially in VF or better. Pre-Hero DC's and Centaurs continue to be in highest demand, and in almost all cases, selling for well over Guide. A great number of books from this time period are greatly undervalued. An example would be New Fun #1; this books lists in Guide at slightly over $5,000, but it is the first DC comic, and should be worth at least as much as a Detective #1. Comics like Detective Picture Stories #1 or Funny Picture Stories are very hard to find and worth 3 - 5 times their Guide value. Realistically, and 1930's #1 from any publisher should be worth at least $1,000 in NM.

Comments: The trend of collecting "classic" supervillains has been developing for some time, and is now starting to explode. The villains are just as important as the heroes, so why shouldn't their first appearances and series (if any), be hunted down just as much?

The best example of this would have to be the Joker series and appearances (he is DC's most popular villain, so his appearances command a premium), and Spider-Man #50. The Kingpin is surely as important to the Marvel universe as the Punisher—so why shouldn't his first appearance be worth at least 1/2 as much.

The above two are not the only examples worth mentioning; some other very notable villains include: Fantastic Four #5—Dr. Doom is the most important villain in the Marvel universe, and his first appearance (and other early appearances) have excellent potential. Eventually #5 could be listed for as much as #2. Spider-Man #'s 6, 14, 15, and 20—these represent (along with #50) the most famous of Spidey's foes. Above average potential on these. Tales Of Suspense #'s 65 and 66 have excellent potential, also. These issues re-introduce the Red Skull and tail, for the first time in the Silver or Golden Age, his origin. Adventure #271—this tells Lex Luthor's origin for the first time. Some other notable issues include TTA #90, Silver Surfer #3, Action #242, Batman #171, Detective #298, and Flash #'s 106 and 114.

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The aim of this discussion is twofold. First, to discuss current thoughts with regard to the comic back issue boom (and it is a boom!); and second, to get into a detailed discussion of each subset (i.e., company or type of comic) that is involved in this boom.

It is true that an Amazing Spider-Man #1 did retail only 17 years ago for around $20! Why has that (as well as many other) Silver Age comic books gone up so vigorously? Reasons include: 1) baby boomers coming of age; 2) true scarcity of early Marvels, only now coming to be really appreciated; 3) more new collectors are entering the field on a seemingly daily basis, all wanting key books at the same time, 4) the Overstreet Update, too, has been a prime player in determining what goes up and how quickly (which is why prices must reflect changing conditions, and must go down as quickly as up, something not always reflected); and, 5) popular culture, i.e., yuppies exploiting childhood memories into film (Batman, Superman, etc.).

The real question to be asking is—how high can comic book prices go? The answer most probably is a function of the economy. If the Federal deficit does lead into a recession, causing the government to borrow, the huge deficit can only raise the cost of money, and thus interest rates.

Thus, 20% or more inflation could occur leading to a mind boggling increase in the value of all collectibles, comic books included. This could be occurring as early as 1990.

Grading: Comic book grading is crucial to the evaluation of whether to purchase any issue. That said, it is noteworthy that grading is highly subjective, with many qualified dealers grading something like many grades apart. Because paper is so malleable, it is impossible to really have anything perfect. Thus, grading is an art within a science. For example, a book almost mint with a one inch tear could be graded anywhere between a VG to mint. Again, the straw man argument is to have arguments over the "grade" when what's at stake is the price. I have found that many of our key customers "know" what our fine means as compared to someone else's fine. Thus, subjectivity is unavoidable. The key factor is that all high priced books, where a change in grade changes price drastically, should have a written description (as in the collectibles exchange for example) with the accent on trying to give the buyer a "picture" of what the item actually looks like.

Collectors should always remember that nothing is really perfect, and that nothing is "really" mint. Rather mint is a "construct" that exists to define the unattainable, the best that could exist. Since mint can not correspond to any defined actuality, all other lower grades will correspond to the degree of harshness the buyer subjects his standards to.

Restoration is something that has been done to many books, again the type of restoration MUST be qualified. It is commonly felt and logically so, that at some point, all key, valuable comic books will have to have their aging processes slowed down, lest they all turn brown and disintegrate. RE-CONDITIONING is the term applied when no actual physical change or material addition is done to the comic, such as in cleaning, pressing, re-stapling, removing spine roll, etc. All touch ups (done to many books), new paper addition, tear mending, etc., is really RESTORING. The general consensus that seems to be slowly emerging is that if the work is highly professional, the price obtained can be close to if not at Guide. (Many will, no doubt, disagree.) [Ed. Note: Sorry, but we disagree and must say so. No matter how professionally done, a repaired book should not be worth the same as an unrepaired book. J.W.] Magic marker (look under the spine, on the inside cover), tape, ugly gluing, and trimming are unprofessional and should decrease the value of the book.

The idea of a grading service that can independently grade books is something that will occur only eventually, and with regard to high priced books, generally, as has happened with coins.

Silver Age

Marvel: Early Marvels continue to set price records. As our ads in Marvel reach many, many collectors, we are tuned to the pulse beat, which has recently been tachyrhymic (fast!) to say the least. I'll center this part of the diatribe on the so called "hot" books.

Captain America #100: We have two confirmed sales of NM/M or M copies at the $150 - $200 range. Again, the demand for this book is surprising, as Tales Of Suspense #58 and #63 (both red hot) would seem to be more important issues. Nevertheless, this book should be pegged between the $150 to $200 mark to be really somewhat accurate. Other prices realized include a Cap #101 mint at $60 and one at $50.

Iron Man #1: A reconditioned #1 in VF sold for $150 in NM for $250. This book is in incredible demand and perhaps is not the book to be buying now, as prices may have peaked. Later issues are very low priced (for how long?) and are just now starting to be noticed as good investment material.

Amazing Spider-Man #'s 1-50: Between #1-25 have been flying in high grade at $7 - $11 each. We are raising these prices as they, too, are getting hard to find in high grade and in quantity. The most popular numbers in ASM sales, in rough order of frequency now are: #298 (up to $13), #300 ($8), #121 and #122 (approaching $60 in M), #39 and #40 (Green Goblin issues, scarce in high grade at $42), #50 (incredible demand, has always been tough in any grade at $75), #51 (Kingpin at $20 in M), #96-98 (drug issues at $25), #119 and #120 (Hulk crossover at $10). The Punisher issues continue to be, I feel,

overpriced but incredibly hot. Whether they will held these prices remains to be seen, but here are the prices we're getting: #129 at $225 M, #134, #135 at $50 M, and #'s 161, 162, 174, 175 GS #4 at $37 M.

In fact, Amazing Spider-Man is without a doubt the most sought after Marvel title. This is due in part to McFarlane revving up interest, but also the key fact is that he is a solo character. Should a Spider-Man movie ever come out with the popularity of Batman, ASM #1 could be a $10,000 book.

Avengers: Other realized prices include Avengers #1 in good at $120; #1 in VF at $600. The most popular back issues currently are Avengers #57 and #58 (vision at $23 and increasing), #11 (ASM crossover), #9 (Wonder Woman), #32, #38, #55, #116; all Neal Adams issues (young collectors say who?), #92-96 NM at $20. Issues from #101-121 are quite hot and justify a $6 price in NM (with #109 Hawkeye at $10 minimum).

Daredevil continues to do great. This character would make a great movie, in that he is in effect a blind Batman. #1 in mint is truly scarce, and would command a price of $700 minimum. #1 in VF/NM sold at $600. #131 (1st Bullseye is a sleeper and may explode now at $9). Other key prices include #158 at $60 M, #168 at $27, #227 and #228 still sell very well at $7, #254, #255, and #256 are showing strong demand at $3 M. Miller is, in other words, still holding his own in collectibility 13 years from DD #158! There are still many collectors who are interested in Miller issues. #182-184 sell well at $7 M. #186, a Wolverine cover, should be in the $6-$10 range. McFarlane #261 sells well at $4.

Fantastic Four: #1 will always sell well, with confirmed sales at VF (restored) $2,250, #1 VGF at $640, #1 GD at $360. #2-120 continue to sell briskly, #5 and #12 are truly scarce in nearly any grade (Hulk vs. Fantastic Four), and should be at $630 and $250 in NM respectively. We have had recent orders for runs of Fantastic Four over #100 complete. There are underpriced and will probably double in price in the next two years, making these numbers a good investment. The hottest issues are #46 (1st Surfer) which should be at $100 in NM (we have one sale at $60 per for a strict mint). #49-50 (Surfers) , #72, $100. #27 (Sub-Mariner) has recently shown a burst. Be advised—as its price may escalate. #112 is also in strong demand (Hulk crossover) at $11 NM.

X-Men: Contrary to other opinion, X-Men still sell well. All numbers all conditions are doing quite well. #1 is not as hot as one year ago, but is still in demand, #1 VG at $270, #1 VF/NM at $850. Recently, #2 has had quite a flurry (#2 mint at $525). #11 and 12 are quite hot with demand outstripping our considerable supply. Collectors should note that #102-107 are for most store dealers slow, thus are good buys. Don't be afraid to haggle. We buy from stores too, and feel that these books are getting older and more difficult to find in high grade each day. Remember that the phrase "buy low, sell high" applies, especially to comics. #129-137, the Death Of Phoenix saga, are excellent investment books, as they represent some of the best story and art every put together in Marvel. They are priced moderately and sell well in our ads at between the $9-15 range in high grade, with the Wolverine cover (#133) especially selling well. Truly still hot are #139-142, especially #141 at $17 M.

Silver Surfer #1 continues to sell in high grade at an explosive pace and will probably touch the $200 mark within a year. In fact, Surfer #1 and all other numbers sell great in virtually ALL conditions. I feel this is a great investment book.

In summary, all early, middle, and later Marvels are showing the best ever mail order activity in nearly all conditions. Demand is currently outstripping supply, thus price increases will be made.

Collectors should note that comic collecting is a worldwide phenomena. We have processed orders from as far away as Aboudabe (United Arab Emigrates). Strong collector interest is being seen in England, Australia, New Zealand. Even France has shown some unexpected ordering. The comic book collecting/investing early Marvel back issue market is in a strong bull phase.

DC: Interest in 10 cent and 12 cent cover DC's is exploding. If demand is outstripping supply in Marvels, it is totally avalanching supply in the DC area. It would be a mistake to believe that only keys are sought. The recent surge in pre-1968 DC titles include interest in what were considered "dog" titles.' Titles such as "Swing With Scooter", "Bomba", and "Secret Six" have shown demand, and coupled with a limited supply, have resulted in prices going for multiples of Guide.

Of course, #1 issues continue to lead the way. Noteworthy sales were a Green Lantern (1960) #1 in fine+ for $450; another in VF at $550, Brave And The Bold #28 VF at $800, #28 F at $425. A true mint BB #28 would fetch around $1,500 (at least these are offers I have).

The Mitchel Moran collection continues to fetch well in excess of Guide prices, with the crowning jewel being the sale of a NM (one micro tear) Detective #100 at $850 (more than double mint!) Action #101 sold for $400 (Guide = $245); as Bob Overstreet has pointed out (and we agree), it is getting very difficult to find complete, virgin, white-paged Golden Age books. The Moran collection purchased in Thunder Bay, Ontario, is without question an exciting look at a large volume of high grade comics from the years 1935 (consistent at 1945) through 1985. As the number of books exceed 18,000, it would be impossible to put all books up for sale at once, as the manpower to handle it would be prohibitive. However, collectors should note that a near complete DC run of nearly all titles existed (including complete runs of scarce issues of Congo Bill, Adv. Charlie Chan). Batmans have been selling far in excess of Guide. About 10% of the Moran collection has been sold so far. Some other prices realized include: Detective #28 (non-Moran) in fine (small spine roll) at $3,500, #98 at $400, #106 at $375 both NM. It would be impossible to list all prices realized, but suffice to say that Moran books have been selling in excess of Guide for the most part.

Westerns: The demand for 10 cent westerns has remained stable. Here, too, Moran's copy continue to lead the way (such as All American Western). Lone Ranger sales have picked up. Rawhide, Maverick, and Hopalong Cassidy are the current leaders. Do not underestimate westerns as there are a large number of exclusive western collectors.

Classics: Classics are booming. This is because a) historically low Guide prices; and, b) increased demand. Classic Comics #1 is extremely underpriced with much room to grow. As Superman #1, Batman #1 in high grade are way past $10,000, it is noteworthy that Classic #1 (original) is only $1,500. Confirmed sales include Classic #1 (original) for $2,500 (cdn). To note is that Canadian Classics due in fact sell for a higher price in general due to their scarcity and different inside front cover content. A Classic Comic #14 Canadian recently sold for $500 (can). Classic giveaways, and scarce issues sell for multiples of Guide. Classics Special Issue The United Nations (NM) recently sold here for $500 (Guide = $125).

Current Titles: The diversity of opinion as to whether current comic books are good to invest in is, I believe, a false question.

The real questions must emphasize short vs. long term investment. The "hot" comic such as Batman #426-429, where #426 is listed at $50, characterizes the dichotomy. Will Batman #426 be worth $100 in one year? Probably not. As retailers, we seem to know that demand will, in a period of the next few months, slacken off. The Guide should reflect this if it is in fact an accurate indicator of current market trends. However, this is not to say that Batman #426 is a poor investment. Although its price is almost certain to go down (witness Teen Titans #1 —was $18, now difficult to sell at $8), it may, say, 10 years from now, slowly trend up, as new collectors enter the field. But yes, the $50 price tag on this book is almost certainly way too high, making it, in our opinion, a poor short to medium term investment.

Actually, the GI Joe phenomena is also illustrative of just how fragile, speculative, and long-term-performing, the new market is. For 5 years, I patiently explained to all who would listen that GI Joe would, or should, one day fade out, with regard to demand. Although that day arrived some 2 years ago (would anyone buy a GI Joe #2 for $55 now?), how many collectors have a complete run that Guide around $400 and would they be shocked to have an offer of $20? Frankly, to me, GI Joe is unsellable, or sellable only in a bulk price.

It seems strange that collectors would spend $100 on a set of Batman #426-429 feeling they have made a good investment, and yet most serious collectors must realize that nearly any early Marvel is a true blue chipper, that will almost

always outperform the "hot" book.

Many years ago, I felt that SCARCITY would in the final analysis be the key determiner of price. This is in fact becoming more and more the case. (How else to explain the interest and price increase on Brother Power the Geek, Scooter, etc., not to mention true scarcities like ANY early 1950 DC in high grade). Again, it is only logical. If a book is scarce or hard to find (early Marvels, 1950 DC's), then even if demand is low the price cannot drop. When demand really perks up, the book must become valuable, and will maintain its value, since enough copies do not exist. Thus, the only way scarcity cannot determine the price is if demand is zero.

Contrast the latter scenario with the hot book. Many copies exist, thus the price may initially escalate, usually being met by supply. However, as demand fades, or as collectors sell off thousands of hoarded copies, supply exceeds demand. Prices must fall due to increased demand (GI Joe being an illustrative example), +/- increased supply.

In summary, I advise collectors to collect what they like, but in terms of putting serious money into comics, they have two choices: a) collect multiple copies of new issues, bought at a wholesale price—at least 30% off, then sell quickly when demand picks up. At 30% below cover, you should not lose! The Legend Of The Dark Knight #1 is a good example of the type of comic to try this on.

For long term—at least 5 years investment—you must invest in Golden Age or early or middle Marvel. People who invested in Batman in the last 5 years are laughing, and now would be a great time to sell for profit taking. However, remember that trends are cyclical, and that Timeleye, Fawcetts, Qualities and lesser names like it will have their day, too. Also, lower grade copies are collectable, too, and should not be frowned upon, especially if hard to find (as in most #1 Marvels). A lower grade Spider-Man #1 bought at $25 in 1975 sure would look great today).

In summary, the back issue market is intense, perhaps too "keys" oriented. Smart money seems to be heading to lower priced Marvels and DC's that have a greater chance of increase. "Moran" books are selling well at or over Guide.

The new comic market has also been interesting. The summer glut of Batman is beginning to even off at a more even level, yet still remains our top selling title...Detective Comics has finally picked up and its sales have reached the same level as Batman...while we have seen some new collectors enter the marketplace to find Batman, the hype and overspill of paraphernalia has killed the market to a certain degree. As we said in our last report, there can be too much of a good thing and it seems that the collectors are beginning to get saturated with the bat-guy...advance orders for the Arkham Asylum graphic novel and the new Legends Of The Dark Knight series has been phenomenal...we expect both to be big hits. Now that the market seems to be leveling off, we now hope to see other titles to step out of the shadow of Batman and to see more rounded activity instead of only 5 or 6 titles...and now "on to the show..."

What's Hot and What's Not

DC: Action Comics has increased in sales with the return of Perez and neatly rounds out the Superman titles...Advance D&D has slipped slightly in sales but has maintained a loyal following...Adventures of Superman sells better with Ordway around...Animal Man is one of the most underrated titles and sells consistently...the new Grant Morrison is picking up speed and notice all the time...issues 1-4 are hard to find, especially #1...the Aquaman mini-series was a hit and the regular series should sell well...Batman still tops the charts and the current story-line "A Lonely Place Of Dying" will hopefully be one of the highlights...Blackhawk is a poor seller...Captain Atom peaked for the bat-cameo issue while Checkmate has not drawn much attention lately...Detective is peaking at the moment and Doc Savage is slipping away. The Doom Patrol is picking up in sales with issue 19 in demand...Dr. Fate is still selling well as is Dragonlance...El Diablo has not found a following yet the new story-line in Firestorm is picking up...Forgotten Realms appeals to the T.S.R. crowd and the Flash is still one of our better selling DC titles, along with Green Arrow (which always seems to sell better in the summer)...Hawk And Dove are finding more and more readers while the Huntress seems to be losing. Hawkworld is one of the hits of 1989 and there is much anticipation for a regular series. Both the Justice League titles are selling well...L.E.G.I.O.N. '89 is still maintaining its readership and interest is renewing in the upcoming Legion title...Manhunter is almost finished, while Mr. Miracle and the New Gods have picked up slightly...the New Titans will peak for the crossover issues with Batman but seems to do only moderate sales...this is one of the most inconsistent books as the sales fluctuate continually, usually depending on whether or not Perez is drawing. The Phantom has a small but loyal following where as the Power Of The Atom seems to be attracting its most attention in its death throes. The Question is, without a question (ouch!) a consistent seller and Sandman is attracting new readers all the time...Secret Origins sells well depending on the content, Skreemer is still a hot-titled series...the Spectre is dead and Starman is still shining brightly. Suicide Squad still sells moderately and there seems to be a slight increase in the Superman titles in general...the return of Swamp Thing didn't set the world on fire, with the annual attracting more attention. The Unknown Soldier still sells well and Wonder Woman seems to be slipping even more.

Marvel: Akira sells well, and the availability of 2nd printings on the first 2 issues is helping to attract new readers...Alf sells moderately as does Alpha Flight. The Amazing Spider-Man is the hottest Marvel title with Todd McFarlane still the most popular artist...Avengers East and West are selling and picking up whereas Avengers Spotlight seems to be slipping a bit...Captain America has been selling well for the Bloodstone story-line and the reprints of the Pheonix Saga in Classic X-Men have been good for new readers to join the mutant band-wagon...Conan seems to be slipping in popularity whereas Daredevil is still another upswing...Dr. Strange hasn't changed in sales and Excalibur has slowed as a back issue...the Fantastic Four has many a reader confused over the dream issues, but sales are increasing with the return of the original team...GI Joe is still a slow title. Groo is still its own phenomena, and the Groo Chronicles makes hard to find issues more accessible...The Incredible Hulk's sales are far from Incredible...Iron Man is still increasing. Marvel Comics Presents is slowing slightly while Marvel Tales is increasing with the new covers by McFarlane...Marvel Fanfare seems to be slipping as a new issue and back issue and the Marvel Universe Updates sell well. Moon Knight is selling at a moderate pace, and the sales on Nth Man, the New Mutants and the 'Nam seem to be slipping more. The Punisher and War Journals are still top sellers, whether or not the movie (if it is ever released) will affect sales will have to be seen...The Punisher Magazine is not flying, nor are the other Marvel magazines. S.H.I.E.L.D. seemed to start off well, but is beginning to slip, as is Sleepwalker and She-Hulk...The Silver Surfer is showing a slight increase, and the Spectacular Spider-Man sells well as a new and back issue....Sub-Mariner mini-series didn't sell well, and the talk of a regular series doesn't seem like a hot idea...Thor sells better as a back issue that a new one. Transformers and The War have slipped even more, but The Web Of Spider-Man is picking up...What If...? is probably Marvel's hottest "new" title...Wolverine sales are way up with Byrne doing the art...The Judgment War in X-Factor has lost a few customers but the current story-line in X-Men has captured interest and sales are on the upswing...Quasar is slipping.

Alternates: Aliens, Predator, and Green Hornet top the list at the moment with the crossover of Aliens and Predator in Darkhorse Presents being the most anticipated book at the moment...The Tick sells out every time we bring some issues in. Books such as Black Kiss, Leather And Lace, Yummy Fur, and Tapping The Vein sell extremely well...Japanese comics are slowing down, and apart from a handful of hot titles, the Independent industry seems to be in a down swing.

GOLDEN AGE AND SILVER AGE SALES INDEX

Requirements - Only real cash sales are reported. No trades or time payments are considered actual sales. All sales are believed to be accurate and reliable. Each dealer's reputation relies upon truthful reporting standards.

SELLER KEY

ACEX = American Collectibles Exchange (Tenn)
BWAL = Brad Walker (NC)
CRU = Comic & Records Unlimited (Texas)
DAOK = Dave Anderson (Oklahoma)
GAC = Golden Age Collectibles (Seattle)
JFAIR = John Fairless
KCONT = Keith Costarino (GA)
LINK = Sean Linkenbach (GA)
MET = Metropolis (NYC)
MISC = Misc. Reported Sales from reliable sources
STATE = Stateside Comics (England)
SUPG = Super Giant Books (NC)

ACTION	1	VG(R)	$7,500	JPAY	Aug-89
ACTION	1	G	$3,000	MET	Sep-89
ACTION	10	VF/NM	$2,300	JPAY	Aug-89
ACTION	10	P (NBC)	$130	ACEX	Aug-89
ACTION	11	VG+	$395	JPAY	Aug-89
ACTION	16	VF/NM	$750	JPAY	Aug-89
ACTION	18	F+	$300	JPAY	Aug-89
ACTION	28	FR	$90	ACEX	Aug-89
ACTION	29	G	$130	ACEX	Aug-89
ACTION	32	FR	$55	ACEX	Aug-89
ACTION	60	VG	$90	ACEX	Aug-89
ADVENTURE	40	NM	$3,900	MET	Aug-89
ADVENTURE	41	VG-	$200	JPAY	Aug-89
ADVENTURE	43	G	$75	ACEX	Aug-89
ADVENTURE	47	FR	$100	ACEX	Aug-89
ADVENTURE	48	VF- (R)	$400	GAC	Apr-89
ADVENTURE	49	P	$75	ACEX	Aug-89
ADVENTURE	54	FR	$75	ACEX	Aug-89
ADVENTURE	55	VF	$275	JPAY	Aug-89
ADVENTURE	58	FR	$75	ACEX	Aug-89
ADVENTURE	59	VF+	$285	JPAY	Aug-89
ADVENTURE	66	FVF	$200	CRU	Aug-89
ADVENTURE	75	VF/NM	$525	MET	Aug-89
ADVENTURE	100	VF	$225	JPAY	Aug-89
ADVENTURE	210	VF/NM	$875	MET	Aug-89
ADVENTURE	247	FN/-	$1,400	STATE	Aug-89
ADVENTURE	247	VG+	$525	JPAY	Aug-89
ALL AMERICAN	16	VG	$2,900	MET	Aug-89
ALL AMERICAN	17	VF/NM	$2,000	MET	Aug-89
ALL AMERICAN	21	GVG	$140	ACEX	Aug-89
ALL AMERICAN	22	FR	$80	ACEX	Aug-89
ALL AMERICAN	23	FR	$80	ACEX	Aug-89
ALL AMERICAN	31	VG/F	$120	ACEX	Aug-89
ALL SELECT	1	VG	$250	JPAY	Aug-89
ALL STAR	1	GVG (T)	$600	JPAY	Aug-89
ALL STAR	4	F	$185	JPAY	Aug-89
ALL STAR	5	NM (boo)	$125	GAC	May-89
ALL STAR	8	F	$165	JPAY	Aug-89
ALL STAR	8	NM	$2,300	MET	Aug-89
ALL STAR	9	VG/F	$325	JPAY	Aug-89
ALL STAR	33	VF/NM	$700	MET	Aug-89
AMAZING FANTASY	15	F	$1,100	JPAY	Aug-89
AMAZING FANTASY	15	NM-M	$5,000	MISC	Aug-89
AMAZING FANTASY	15	VF	$3,000	STATE	Aug-89
AMAZING FANTASY	15	VF/NM	$3,150	KCONT	Aug-89
AMAZING FANTASY	15	VG	$700	ACEX	Aug-89
AMAZING MAN	5	FR	$500	MET	Aug-89
AMAZING MYSTERY FU	12-Feb	G(T)	$125	ACEX	Aug-89
AMAZING MYSTERY FU	V3-1	VG(T)	$100	ACEX	Aug-89
AMERICAS GREATE	1	F-	$350	JPAY	Aug-89
ARROW	1	G+	$400	MET	Aug-89
ARROW	1	VGF	$275	LINK	Jun-89
ARROW	1	AF	$400	JPAY	Aug-89
AVENGERS	1	VF	$1,000	STATE	Aug-89
BATMAN	1	VG (r)	$6,900	STATE	Aug-89
BATMAN	1	VF	$16,000	DAOK	Aug-89
BATMAN	1	VGF	$6,000	MET	May-89
BATMAN	1	F(C)	$400	JPAY	Aug-89
BATMAN	2	VF(R)	$2,100	JPAY	Aug-89
BATMAN	2	G+	$700	ACEX	Aug-89
BATMAN	3	F+	$220	JPAY	Aug-89
BATMAN	3	G+	$425	JPAY	Aug-89
BATMAN	5	F+(R)	$475	JPAY	Aug-89
BATMAN	5	G	$300	ACEX	Aug-89
BATMAN	6	VGF	$500	JPAY	Aug-89
BATMAN	7	G	$190	ACEX	Aug-89
BATMAN	8	G+	$185	JPAY	Aug-89
BATMAN	9	VF	$1,020	STATE	Aug-89
BATMAN	11	F	$960	STATE	Aug-89
BATMAN	15	VF+	$600	JPAY	Aug-89
BATMAN	100	NM	$900	STATE	Aug-89
BATMAN	100	VF/NM	$750	MET	Jul-89
BATMAN	100	GVG	$55	ACEX	Aug-89
BLUE BEETLE	1	VF	$600	MET	Aug-89
BOY COMICS	10	FVF	$200	MET	Aug-89
BRAVE AND BOLD	28	M	$1,800	MET	Aug-89
CAPTAIN AMERICA	1	VF/NM	$6,700	MET	Aug-89
CAPTAIN AMERICA	1	FR	$1,200	ACEX	Aug-89
CAPTAIN AMERICA	1	G+	$1,600	JPAY	Aug-89
CAPTAIN AMERICA	3	VF-	$1,200	JPAY	Aug-89
CAPTAIN AMERICA	3	P	$150	ACEX	Aug-89
CAPTAIN AMERICA	4	FVF	$650	JPAY	Aug-89
CAPTAIN AMERICA	4	G	$200	ACEX	Aug-89
CAPTAIN AMERICA	5	FR	$280	ACEX	Aug-89
CAPTAIN AMERICA	6	VG	$300	ACEX	Aug-89
CAPTAIN AMERICA	8	VG+	$300	JPAY	Aug-89
CAPTAIN AMERICA	7	VF	$1,280	STATE	Aug-89
CAPTAIN AMERICA	10	NM	$1,000	STATE	Aug-89
CAPTAIN MARVEL	1	VF+	$6,000	MET	Aug-89
CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.	4	VG	$80	ACEX	Aug-89
CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.	6	F	$125	CRU	Aug-89
CLASSIC COMICS	1	F+	$1,000	MET	Aug-89
CLASSIC COMICS	5	VG	$200	MET	Aug-89
CLASSIC COMICS	43(2nd)	VF-	$150	MET	Aug-89
COLLOSUS	1	G	$100	ACEX	Aug-89
COMICS ON PARADE	1	GVG	$225	LINK	Aug-89
CRIME PATROL	7	NM	$175	JPAY	Aug-89
DAREDEVIL COMICS	1	VF	$800	STATE	Aug-89
DAREDEVIL COMICS	2	VG	$250	ACEX	Aug-89
DAREDEVIL COMICS	4	NM-M	$515	MET	Aug-89
DAREDEVIL COMICS	6	VG	$80	ACEX	Aug-89
DAREDEVIL COMICS	18	FVF	$250	LINK	Jun-89
DETECTIVE	1	F-	$8,200	MET	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	27	F+ (R)	$14,000	JFAIR	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	28	VF (R)	$3,000	BWAL	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	28	F	$3,500	ROSS	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	29	FRG	$525	MET	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	31	G	$900	MET	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	32	VGF	$595	JPAY	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	33	VF	$6,400	STATE	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	33	FR	$800	MET	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	35	G	$325	MET	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	38	NM	$9,200	MET	Jul-89
DETECTIVE	38	GVG	$2,000	ACEX	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	50	FVF	$275	JPAY	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	66	VG	$325	ACEX	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	71	FR	$65	ACEX	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	78	NM-M	$450	BWAL	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	79	NM-	$275	GAC	Mar-89
DETECTIVE	98	VG-	$100	SUPG	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	100	NM	$850	ROSS	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	140	VF+	$175	GAC	Mar-89
DETECTIVE	141	VF+	$150	GAC	Mar-89
DETECTIVE	225	FN	$600	STATE	Aug-89
DETECTIVE	226	F	$180	MISC	Aug-89
DETECTIVE PICTURE S	1	F+	$1,200	MET	Aug-89
FANTASTIC FOUR	1	M	$4,000	MET	Aug-89
FANTASTIC FOUR	1	AF	$425	JPAY	Aug-89
FANTASTIC FOUR	7	VF	$400	STATE	Aug-89
FLASH COMICS	1	VF+	$5,300	MET	Aug-89
FLASH COMICS	5	GVG	$220	ACEX	Aug-89
FLASH COMICS	6	P	$90	ACEX	Aug-89
FLASH COMICS	12	G (T)	$90	ACEX	Aug-89
FLASH COMICS	20	GVG	$100	ACEX	Aug-89
FLASH COMICS	21	G+	$80	ACEX	Aug-89
FOUR COLOR	9	VF	$1,800	MET	Aug-89
FOUR COLOR	178	VG-	$125	SUPG	Aug-89
FOUR COLOR	223	VF/NM	$300	JPAY	Aug-89
FUNNY PAGES	V2#10	VF	$1,000	MET	Aug-89
FUNNY PAGES	V3#7	VF/NM	$500	MET	Aug-89
GENE AUTRY (FAWCETT	1	VG	$400	ACEX	Aug-89
GREAT COMICS	3	VG	$125	ACEX	Aug-89
GREEN GIANT	1	FR	$500	ACEX	Aug-89
GREEN LANTERN	1	VF/NM	$550	JPAY	Aug-89
GREEN LANTERN (GA)	1	NM (R)	$1,500	BWAL	Aug-89

GOLDEN AGE AND SILVER AGE SALES INDEX

HELLO PAL	1	F	$150	ACEX	Aug-89
HOLIDAY COMICS	1	F	$200	JPAY	Aug-89
JOURNEY INTO MYSTER	83	VF	$1,200	STATE	Aug-89
JUMBO COMICS	2	F-	$1,500	MET	Aug-89
JUMBO COMICS	4	G	$425	MET	Aug-89
JUMBO COMICS	5	F	$1,000	MET	Aug-89
JUMBO COMICS	7	VF	$1,200	MET	Aug-89
JUMBO COMICS	7	FR	$300	MET	Aug-89
JUMBO COMICS	9	G	$85	ACEX	Aug-89
JUSTICE LEAGUE	1	VGF	$300	JPAY	Aug-89
LARRY DOBY	NN	VFNM	$135	JPAY	Aug-89
MAD COMICS	1	NM	$650	MET	Aug-89
MARCH OF COMICS	4	NM-M	$3,200	MET	Aug-89
MARVEL COMICS	1	VF (R)	$8,500	BWAL	Aug-89
MARVEL COMICS	1	FVF	$16,900	MET	Aug-89
MARVEL MYSTERY	4	P	$140	ACEX	Aug-89
MARVEL MYSTERY	6	GVG(T)	$200	JPAY	Aug-89
MARVEL MYSTERY	9	VGF(R)	$500	JPAY	Aug-89
MARVEL MYSTERY	12	G+(T)	$148	ACEX	Aug-89
MARVEL MYSTERY	14	GVG	$125	ACEX	Aug-89
MARVEL MYSTERY	19	G	$80	ACEX	Aug-89
MARVEL MYSTERY	82	GVG	$66	ACEX	Aug-89
MASTER	8	GVG	$60	ACEX	Aug-89
MASTER	21	NM+	$1,400	MET	Aug-89
MASTER	21	F+	$600	JPAY	Aug-89
MILITARY	2	G	$115	ACEX	Aug-89
MILITARY	19	FN	$165	ACEX	Aug-89
MOON GIRL	5	VF	$300	MET	Aug-89
MORE FUN	12	G+	$175	JPAY	Aug-89
MORE FUN	55	VF+	$1,950	MET	Aug-89
MORE FUN	73	VF	$1,400	MET	Aug-89
MOTION PICTURE C	110	VF	$325	JPAY	Aug-89
MOVIE COMICS (DC)	1	VF-	$750	JPAY	Aug-89
NEW COMICS	6	GVG	$200	JPAY	Aug-89
NEW FUN	2	FRG	$1,200	LINK	Sep-89
NEW YORK WORLDS	1939	GVG	$675	JPAY	Aug-89
NEW YORK WORLDS	1940	VG	$600	MET	Sep-89
NICKEL	1	VF-	$450	JPAY	Aug-89
PAT BOONE	1	NM	$95	JPAY	Aug-89
PEP	17	G	$115	MET	Aug-89
PEP	22	NM-M	$1,400	MET	Aug-89
PEP	72	NM	$40	GAC	Jan-89
PLANET COMICS	1	NM+	$2,600	MET	Aug-89
PLANET COMICS	37	VF	$140	JPAY	Aug-89
PLANET COMICS	53	VF	$110	JPAY	Aug-89
PLANET COMICS	55	VFNM	$145	JPAY	Aug-89
PLASTIC MAN	1	VG-	$190	MET	Aug-89
POLICE	1	F	$775	MET	Aug-89
POLICE	1	AF(R)	$500	JPAY	Aug-89
POLICE	5	FR	$70	ACEX	Aug-89
PRIZE	1	FR	$60	ACEX	Aug-89
RED RAVEN	1	FVF	$1,600	JPAY	Aug-89
REX WONDER DOG	1	NM	$265	JPAY	Aug-89
ROY CAMPANELLA	1	NM	$125	JPAY	Aug-89
SHOCK S.SUSPENSTORI	1	NM	$245	JPAY	Aug-89
SHOWCASE	4	NM-M	$4,500	KCONT	Aug-89
SHOWCASE	4	VF	$2,200	STATE	Aug-89
SHOWCASE	22	NM-M	$1,500	KCONT	Aug-89
SILVER STREAK	1	NM-M	$2,800	MET	Aug-89
SILVER STREAK	4	NM-M	1600	MET	Aug-89
SMASH	14	VG	$1,400	MET	Aug-89
SMASH	25	VFNM	$195	JPAY	Aug-89
SMASH	28	VF	$125	JPAY	Aug-89
SPIDER-MAN	1	FVF	$2,600	STATE	Aug-89
SPIDER-MAN	1	VFNM	$2,970	ACEX	Aug-89
SPIDER-MAN	1	NM+	$4,000	MET	Aug-89
SPIDER-MAN	1	VG	$700	ACEX	Sep-89
SPY SMASHER	1	VG+	$250	JPAY	Aug-89
STAR SPANGLED	16	FR	$55	ACEX	Aug-89
STAR SPANGLED	17	FR	$55	ACEX	Aug-89
STAR SPANGLED	75	VF-	$100	SUPG	Aug-89
STRANGE ADVENTU	1	VF-	$395	JPAY	Aug-89
STRANGE ADVENTU	2	NM	$275	JPAY	Aug-89
SUPERBOY	1	VG	$650	SUPG	Aug-89
SUPERMAN	3	FR	$330	ACEX	Aug-89
SUPERMAN	14	VGF	$570	ACEX	Aug-89
SUPERMAN	25	VFNM	$400	JPAY	Aug-89
SUPERMAN	30	VG+	$225	JPAY	Aug-89
SUPERMAN	76	F+	$250	JPAY	Aug-89
SUPERMAN	3-200	G-FVF	$9,000	BWAL	Aug-89
TEEN AGE DOPE SL	1	VG	$125	JPAY	Aug-89
TOUGH KID SQUAD	1	VFNM	$1,500	JPAY	Aug-89
UNCLE SAM	1	NM	$750	JPAY	Aug-89
WALT DISNEY C&S	1	VFNM	$3,500	MET	Aug-89
WALT DISNEY C&S	2	F	$110	JPAY	Aug-89
WALT DISNEY C&S	32	G+	$140	JPAY	Aug-89
WEIRD FANTASY	13	VFNM	$500	MET	Aug-89
WEIRD SCI-FANTASY	29	F	$135	MET	Aug-89
WHIZ	2(1)	VGF	$6,700	MET	Aug-89
WHIZ	2(1)	FRG	$2,200	MET	Aug-89
WONDER WOMAN	1	VGF	$800	MET	Aug-89
WONDER WOMAN	32	VF+	$110	GAC	Jan-89
WONDER WORLD	3	F+	$350	MET	Aug-89
WORLD'S BEST	1	FVF	$1,600	STATE	Aug-89
WOW	9	F	$95	ACEX	Aug-89
X-MEN	2	NM-M	$650	KCONT	Aug-89
X-MEN	3	NM-M	$300	KCONT	Aug-89
YOUNG ALLIES	1	GVG	$325	JPAY	Aug-89
YOUNG ALLIES	1	NMM	$1,600	JPAY	Aug-89
ZIP	1	VFNM	$650	MET	Aug-89
ZIP	1	P	$75	ACEX	Aug-89

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425-449 449- Invasion	1.00
450-457	.70
Annual 1 (1987), 2 (1988)	1.40
Title Value:	36.10

ADVENTURES OF THE OUTSIDERS, THE
(Formerly Batman And The Outsiders)
DC Comics - Cover Price

ADVENTURES OF THEOWN, THE
Pyramid Comics- Cover Price

ADVENTURES OF ZOTI IN DIMENSION 10 1/2
Eclipse Comics - Cover Price

AFTER APOCALYPSE
Paragraphic- Cover Price

AFTERMATH
Invasion Comics- Cover Price

AGAINST BLACKSHARD 3-D
Seius Comics- Cover Price

AGENT UNKNOWN
Renegade Press- Cover Price

AIRBOY
July, 1986-Present (16 pages bi-weekly)
Eclipse Comics (no. 9 on regular size)

1	3.80 -
2-4, 6-8	2.00
5- Dave Stevens cover	3.00
9-20	1.60
21-30	1.40
31-49	1.60
50- 3.95 cover, 52 pgs. Kubert -c	3.95
Airboy Meets The Prowler (1987)	1.95
Airboy - Mr. Monster Special (1987)	1.95
Airboy Versus The Air Maidens (1988)	1.95
Title Value:	90.80

AIR FIGHTERS CLASSICS
Nov. 1987-No. 6, May, 1989 (3.95, B&W)
Eclipse Comics

1-6	3.95
Title Value:	23.70

AIRFIGHTERS MEET SGT. STRIKE SPECIAL
Jan. 1988 (1.95, color, one-shot)
Eclipse Comics

1	1.95
Title Value.	1.95

AIRMAIDENS SPECIAL
August, 1987 (1.75, color, one shot)
Eclipse Comics

1	2.00
Title Value:	2.00

AIR RAIDERS
Nov, 1987-No 5, Mar 1988 (1.00, color)
Star Comics (Marvel)

1-5	1.00
Title Value:	5.00

AKIRA
Sept., 1988-Present (3.50, color deluxe)
Epic Comics

1	5.50 +
2	4.50 +
3-6	3.75
Title Value.	20.50

ALBEDO
Apr. 1986- Present? (B&W)
Thoughts And Images

0- Yellow cover, 50 copies	148.50 -
0- White cover, 450 copies	135.00 -
0- Blue, 1st printing, 500 copies	72.00 -
0- Blue, 2nd printing, 1000 copies	54.00 -
0- 3rd print	4.10 -
0- 4th print	1.50 -
1- Dark red, 1st app Usagi Yojimbo	67.50 -
1- Bright red	63.00 -
2	67.50 -
3	8.10 -
4	18.00 -
5	6.50 -
6	8.10 -
7-14	2.10 -
Title Value:	670.70

ALF
Mar 1988-Present (1.00, color)
Marvel Comics

1	7.00
2	4.00
3-5	2.00
6-10	1.20
11-20	1.00
Annual 1 (1988, 1.75 cover), Evolutionary War	3.50
Annual 2 (1989, 2.00)	2.00
Holiday Special (1.75, 64 pgs.)	1.75
Spring Special 1 (1989, 1.75)	1.75
Title Value:	42.00

ALIEN DUCKLINGS
Blackthorne Publishing - Cover Price

ALIEN ENCOUNTERS
June 1985 - No. 14 , Aug., 1987
Eclipse Comics

1-14	2.00
Title Value:	28.00

ALIEN FIRE
1987-No. 3, 1987 (2.00, B&W)
Kitchen Sink Press

1-3	2.50
Title Value:	7.50

ALIEN LEGION
April, 1984 - No. 20, Sept. 1987
Epic Comics (Marvel)

1	3.50
2-5	2.00
6-10	1.70
11-20	1.50
Title Value:	35.00

ALIEN LEGION
Aug, 1987-Present (1.25, color)
Epic Comics

V2 #1	2.00
2-12	1.50
Title Value:	18.50

Advs. of Baron Munchausen #1, © Now Comics

Airfighters Meet Sgt. Strike Spec. #1, © Eclipse

Alf Spring Special #1, © Marvel

Alien Legion #7 (1984), © Epic

All American Men of War #31, © DC

Alpha Flight #1, © Marvel

Amazing Adventures #1 ('70), © Marvel

Amazing Spider-Man #1, © Marvel

ALIEN NATION
Dec. 1988 (2.50, color, one-shot)
DC Comics
1- Movie tie-in 2.50
Title Value: 2.50

ALIENS
1988-Present (1.95, B&W, mini-series)
Dark Horse Comics
1- New story based on movie 10.00 + H
1- Second printing 2.50
1- Third printing 2.00
1- Fourth printing 2.00
2 7.00 + H
2- Second printing 2.00
2- Third printing 2.00
3 3.00 H
V2 #1- (Aug. 1989, color, 2.25) 2.50 + H
Title Value: 86.00

ALIEN WORLDS
Dec. 1982 - No. 9, Jan. 1985
Pacific Comics/Eclipse Comics
1 3.50
2-7, 2, 4-Dave Stevens c/a 3.00
8- 1st Eclipse issue 1.70
9- $1.50 cover price, last issue 2.00
3-D No. 1- Art Adams 5.00 H
Title Value: 30.20

ALL AMERICAN MEN OF WAR
No. 2, Dec-Jan., 1953-No. 117, Sept.-Oct., 1968
National Periodical Publ.
127 (1952) 183.00 +
128 (1952) 103.00 +
2-3 (1952) 85.00 +
6-10 54.00 +
11-18 Last pre-code issue 41.00 +
19-28 30.00 +
29, 30, 32-Wood art 34.00 +
31, 33-59 14.00 +
51-67, 87-1st Gunner & Sarge by And 11.00 +
68-80 5.50 +
81-100 3.10 +
101-117 2.00 +
Title Value: 2236.00

ALL STAR INDEX, THE
Independent Comics Group (Eclipse) - Cover Price

ALL-STAR SQUADRON
Sept. 1981 - No. 67, Mar. 1987
DC Comics
1 1.50
2 1.00
3-24 .80
25- 1st Infinity, Inc. 3.00
26- Infinity, Inc. origin 2.50
29-45, 48, 49 .80
47- Todd McFarlane art 3.50 H
50- Crisis x-over 1.50
51-53- Crisis x-over 1.00
54-67 .80
Annual 1-3 1.50
Title Value: 66.20

ALPHA FLIGHT
Aug. 1983 - Present
Marvel Comics Group
1- Wolverine, Nightcrawler cameo 4.00
2 2.50
3-5 2.20
6-11 2.00
12- Double size 2.50
13- Wolverine app. 5.00 H
14-16 1.50
17- X-Men x-over, Wolverine cameo 5.00 H
18-29 last Byrne issues 1.50
30-32, 35-39 1.30
33, 34- Wolverine app. 3.00 H
40-49, 51 1.30
50- Double size 1.40
52, 53-Wolverine app. 2.50
54-74, 74- Wolverine, Spider-Man app 1.30
75- Double size, 1.95 cover 1.95
Annual 1 1.80
Annual 2- (12/87, 1.25 cover) 1.30
Title Value: 129.55

ALTER EGO
May, 1986- No. 4, Nov. 1986 (mini-series)
First Comics
1 1.80
2-4 1.40
Title Value: 6.00

ALTERNATE EXISTENCE
Alternate Comics - Cover Price

ALTERNATE HEROES
Prelude Graphics -Cover Price

AMAZING ADULT FANTASY
(Amazing Adv. No. 1-5, Amazing Fantasy No. 15)
No. 7, Dec. 1961 - No. 14, July, 1962
Marvel Comics Group (AMI)
7- Ditko art in all 95.00 H
8-last 10 cent issue 80.00 H
9-14 70.00 H
Title Value: 585.00

AMAZING ADVENTURES
(Amazing Adult Fantasy No. 7 on)
June, 1961 - No. 6, Nov., 1961
Marvel Comics Group (AMI)
1- Origin Dr. Doom (1st Marvel Super-Hero)
Ditko & Kirby art in all 175.00 + H
2 125.00 + H
3-6 100.00 + H
Title Value: 700.00

AMAZING ADVENTURES
Aug, 1970 - No. 39, Nov., 1976
Marvel Comics Group
1- Inhumans by Kirby & Black Widow begin 3.00
2-4 2.00
5-8, Adams art 3.50
9, 10- 10 Last Inhumans 1.50
11- New Beast begins, ends no. 17, X-Men cameo 4.00
13-17 2.00
18- 1st app. Killraven, Adams art 3.00
19-39 1.00
Title Value 66.00

AMAZING ADVENTURES
December, 1979 - No. 14, January 1981
Marvel Comics Group
V2 #1- Reprints X-Men 1, 98 2.00
2-14 Early X-Men reprints 1.50
Title Value: 21.50

AMAZING ADVENTURES
July, 1988 (4.95, squarebound, color, one shot)
Marvel Comics
1- Golden, Austin art 4.95
Title Value: 4.95

AMAZING COMICS PREMIERES
Amazing Comics - Cover Price

AMAZING CYMICALMAN, THE
Eclipse Comics - Cover Price

AMAZING FANTASY
(Adult Fantasy No. 7-14)
No. 15, Sept. 1962 (on 1st pg.)
Marvel Comics Group (AMI)
15- Origin & 1st app. Spider-Man 2530.00 + H
Title Value: 2530.00

AMAZING HIGH ADVENTURE
Marvel Comics Group - Cover Price

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE
March, 1963 - Present
Marvel Comics Group (AMI)
1- Origin retold, Ditko 2350.00 + H
1 (Reprint) 30.00 H
1 (with record) 60.00 H
2- Intro. The Vulture 560.00 + H
3- Intro & 1st app. Doc Octopus 375.00 + H
4- Origin & 1st app. The Sandman 310.00 + H
5 250.00 + H
6- 1st app. Lizard 300.00 + H
7-10 175.00 + H
11-13, 15 125.00 + H
14- Intro the Green Goblin 185.00 + H

PLEASE NOTE: MANY TITLES NOT LISTED IN THE UPDATE CAN BE FOUND IN THE OFFICIAL OVERSTREET COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE.

PLEASE NOTE: THOSE TITLES MARKED "COVER PRICE" HAVE LITTLE OR NO VALUE AND SELL FOR COVER PRICE OR LESS.

18, 18, 19 75.00 = E
17- 2nd app. Green Goblin 100.00 + H
20- Intro & origin The Scorpion 85.00 + H
21-30 26- 1st app. Crime Master, 28- origin & 1st app. Molten Man 50.00 + H
31-40 31- Intro Harry Osborn, Gwen Stacy, & Prof. Warren, 38-Last Ditko issue, 39, 40- Green Goblin in both 33.00 + H
41, 43-48 20.00 + H
42- 1st app. Mary Jane Watson 27.00 + H
50- Intro Kingpin 60.00 + H
51-80 56- Intro Capt. George Stacy 11.00 + H
81-90 6.30 + H
91-99, 91-93, 95, 99 7.70 + H
90- Death of Capt. Stacy 10.00 + H
94- Origin retold 11.00 + H
96-98 Drug books not approved by CCA 18.00 + H
100- Anniversary issue 28.00 + H
101- Intro Morbius 11.00 + H
102- Origin Morbius (52 pgs.) 11.00 + H
103-112, 115-118 5.80 + H
113, 114, 119, 120 6.10 + H
121- Death of Green Stacy 29.00 + H
122- Death of Green Goblin 29.00 + H
123-128 5.00 + H
129- 1st app. The Punisher (2/74) 170.00 + H
130-130, 136-140 4.40 + H
134- Punisher cameo app. (July, 1974 11.00 + H
135- Punisher app. (Aug. 1974, 2nd a 39.00 + H
141-160 3.40 + H
161- Punisher (cameo) 8.00 + H
162- Punisher app. Nightcrawler 12.00 + H
163-170 2.40 + H
171-173, 178-181 181- Origin retold, gives life history of Spiderman 2.40 + H
174, 175- Punisher app. 5.80 + H
183-186 2.40 + H
186, 190- Byrne art (p) 3.20 + H
191-193, 195-199 204, 205, 207-219 2.40 + H
194- 1st Black Cat 3.50 + H
200- Giant origin issue 4.40 + H
201, 202- Punisher app. 6.60 + H
203- 2nd Spider app. 2.40 + H
206- Byrne art 1.90 + H
220-237 1.90 + H
238- 1st app. Hobgoblin 10.00 + H
239 3.70 + H
240-250 1.90 + H
251 4.40 + H
252- New black costume for Spiderman 6.30 + H
253- 1st app. The Rose 3.70 + H
254 2.40 + H
255-260 259- Spider-Man back to old costume 1.90 + H
261-274, 276-283 1.50 + H
275- Reprints origin, 1 25 cover, docu 3.20 + H
284- Punisher cameo app., Gang War 2.40 + H
285- Punisher app. 6.60 + H
286-288, Gang War storyline #284-288 1.80 + H
290-292 1.50 + H
289- Double size, origin Mob Goblin 5.00 + H
290, 294- Six part, Kraven 3.70 + H
295-297 2.40 + H
296- Todd McFarlane art begins 8.80 + H
298- McFarlane art 5.80 + H
300- Double size, last black costume 7.50 + H
301-309 2.70 + H
305-315 2.20 + H
316-328 319- Bi-weekly begins 1.40 + H
Annual 1 77.00 + H
Annual 2 24.00 + H
Special 3, 4 11.00 + H
Special 5-8 6.00 + H
King Size 9 3.70 + H
Annual 10, 11, 12 3.70 + H
Annual 13- John Byrne art 4.80 + H
Annual 14- Miller cover and art 5.00 + H
Annual 15- Punisher app., Miller c-a 8.50 + H
Annual 16-20 2.40 + H
Annual 21- Wedding issue, direct sale version 4.40 = H
Annual 21- Wedding issue, newsstand version 3.70 + H
Annual 22 (1988)- Evolutionary War 3.70 + H
Annual 23 - (1989) Atlantis Attacks 2.10 + H
Giant Size 1 4.80 + H
Giant Size 2, 3, 5, 6 2.40 + H
Giant Size 4- Third Punisher app 25.00 + H
Title Value: 8690.15

AMAZON, THE
Comico - Cover Price

AMAZON WARRIORS
AC Comics - Cover Price

AMBUSH BUG
June, 1985 - No. 4, Sept, 1985 (4-issue mini-series)
DC Comics
1 1.00
2-4 .80
Stocking Stuffer (2/86) 1.30
Title Value: 4.70

AMERICAN, THE
July, 1987-No. 8, 1988 (B&W, 1 75)
Dark Horse Comics
1- 1.50 cover 6.50
2 4.40
3-5 3.00
6-8 1.75
American Collection (B&W, 5 95) 5.95
Title Value. 32.85

AMERICAN FLAGG!
Oct, 1983 - No 50, Mar 1988
First Comics
1 3.00
2-12 1.50
13-50 1.00
Special 1 1.50
Title Value. 59.00

AMERICAN FLAGG! (Howard Chaykin's)
May 1988-V2 #12, Apr 1989 (1 75 color)
First Comics
V2 #1-9, 11, 12 1.75
10- Elvis Presley photo cover 2.50
Title Value. 21.75

AMERICA'S BEST TV COMICS
1987 (Giant Size, 68 pgs, 25 cent one shot)
American Broadcasting Company
1- Fantastic Four, Casper, Amazing Spider-Man, King Ko other cartoon characters appear 12.00 +
Title Value. 12.00

AMERICA VERSUS THE JUSTICE SOCIETY
Jan, 1985 - No. 4, Apr, 1985 (mini-series)
DC Comics
1 1.50
2-4 1.00
Title Value: 4.50

AMERICOMICS
May, 1983-No 5, Mar 1984 (Color)
Americomics
1-6 printed on Baxter paper 2.50
Special 1 (8/83, $2.00) 2.50
Title Value: 17.50

AMETHYST
Jan, 1985 - No. 16, Aug 1986
DC Comics
1-16 1.00
Special 1 4.30
Title Value 17.30

AMETHYST
Nov, 1987-No 4 Feb 1988 (1 25, mini series, color)
DC Comics
1-4 1.25
Title Value. 5.00

AMETHYST, PRINCESS OF GEM WORLD
May, 1983 - No 12, May, 1984 (12 issue mini-series)
DC Comics
1 - 50 cent regular cover price 1.50
1 - 35 cent cover price tested in Austin and Kansas City only, scarce 12.00
2 - 35 cent cover price tested in Austin and Kansas City only, scarce 12.00
2-12 1.00
Annual 1 1.30
Title Value- 37.80

Amazing Spider-Man #23, © Marvel

Amazing Spider-Man #129, © Marvel

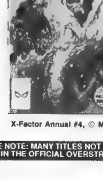
Amazing Spider-Man #253, © Marvel

Americomics #3, © Americomics

The Wolverine Saga #1, © Marvel

Wonder Woman #2 (3/87), © DC

World's Finest #149, © DC



X-Factor Annual #4, © Marvel

David House- Cover Price

WIZARDS OF THE LAST RESORT
Blackthorne- Cover Price

WIZARD WORKS
Fantasy General- Cover Price

WOLFPACK
Marvel Comics - Cover Price

WOLPH
Blackthorne- Cover Price

WOLVERINE (Also see Incredible Hulk)
Sept, 1982 - No. 4, Dec, 1982 (mini-series)
Marvel Comics Group
1- Miller cover & art in all 13.00 H
2, 3 9.50 H
4 10.50 H
Title Value: 42.50

WOLVERINE (Also see Marvel Comics Presents
Nov., 1988-Present (1.50, color)
Marvel Comics
1 6.00 + H
2, 3 3.00 H
4-6; 7, 8- Hulk app. 2.25 + H
9-14 1.50 H
Title Value: 35.25

WOLVERINE SAGA, THE
Sept., 1989-Present (3.95, color, deluxe)
Marvel Comics
1- Beginnings 3.95
Title Value 3.95

WONDER MAN
Marvel Comics - Cover Price

WONDER WOMAN
No. 73, January 1955 - No. 329, Jan, 1986
National Periodical Publications/DC Comics
73-80 42.00
81-94, 96-99 28.00
95- Atom Bomb cover 32.00
100 35.00
101-104, 106-110 22.00
105- Secret origin, scarce 50.00 +
111-120 13.00
121-126, 128-Last 10 cent issue 7.50
127-130 7.00
131-150 5.00
151-158, 160-179 4.00
159 5.00
171-178 5.00
179-195 2.50
196-198 3.00
199, 200 5.00
201-210 1.20
211-286 1.00
287- New Teen Titans app. 1.50
288-299, 301-328 1.00
300- 76 pgs , 1.50 cover 1.50 +
329- Last issue 1.50
Title Value: 1807.00

WONDER WOMAN
Feb, 1987-Present
DC Comics
1- Perez cover & art begins, ends #24 3.00
2-5 1.50
6-10 1.30
11-20 1.10
21-33 1.00
Annual 1 (1.50, 1988)- Art Adams art 1.50
ANnual 2 (2.00, 1989) 2.00
Title Value: 43.00

WORDSMITH
Renegade Press - Cover Price

WORLD OF KRYPTON
July, 1979-No. 3, Sept 1979
Dec. 1987-No. 4, Mar 1988 (mini-series, 75, color)
DC Comics
1-3 1.00 +
1-4; Byrne story 1.00
Title Value 7.00

WORLD OF METROPOLIS, THE
Aug. 1988-No 4, Nov. 1988 (1.00, color, mini-series)
DC Comics
1-4. Byrne scripts 1.00
Title Value 4.00

WORLD OF SMALLVILLE
Apr. 1988-No. 4, July 1988 (75, color)
DC Comics
1-4 1.20
Title Value: 4.80

WORLD OF WOOD
Eclipse Comics - Cover Price

WORLD OF YOUNG MASTER
New Comics Group - Cover Price

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS
No. 75, Jan, 1955 - No. 323, Jan, 1986
National Periodical Publ./DC Comics
75-80, 1st code approved 77.00
81-90 50.00
91-93, 95-99 33.00
94- Origin Superman/Batman retold 145.00 + H
100 83.00 H
101-121- 121-Last 10 cent issue 22.00
122-142 11.00
143-150 7.70
151-155, 157-160 3.50
156- 1st Bizarro Batman, Joker C&S 12.00 + H
161- Giant G-28, 170- Giant G-40 4.40
162-165, 167-169, 171-174 3.30
166- Joker C&S 8.00 + H
175, 176- Adams art 4.40 H
177, 178, 180-187 1.70 H
179 (G-52), 188 (G-64) Giants 2.20 H
189-196 1.70 H
197- Giant G-76 2.20 H
198-204 1.70 H
205- Shining Knight by Frazetta-c 1.70 H
206- Giant G-88 1.70 H
207-248 1.10 H
249- The Creeper by Ditko begins 1.70 H
250-299, 301-323 1.10 H
300-(48 pgs , $1.25) New Teen Titans 1.70 H
Title Value: 2512.40

WRATH OF THE SPECTRE, THE
May 1988-No. 4, Aug. 1988 (2.50, color, mini-series)
DC Comics
1-4 2.50
Title Value: 10.00

WYOMING TERRITORY
Ark Comics - Cover Price

XANADU
Thoughts & Images - Cover Price

XENO-MEN
Blackthorne- Cover Price

XENON
Eclipse Comics - Cover Price

XENOZOIC TALES
Feb. 1987-No. 7, 1988 (2.00, B&W)
Kitchen Sink
1 3.00
2 2.50
3-7 2.00
Title Value: 19.50

X-FACTOR
Feb, 1986 - Present
Marvel Comics Group
1 8.00 H
2, 3 5.00 H
4, 5 4.50 H
6-10 3.00 H
11-20 2.50 H
21-23 1.80 H
24-29- Fall Of The Mutants 2.50 H
27-30 1.40 H
31-45 41, 42- Art Adams art (p) 1.00 H
Annual 1 (10/86), 2 (10/87) 2.50 H
Annual 3 (1988) Evolutionary War 3.00 H
Annual 4 (1989, 2.00) Atlantis Attacks 2.00 H
Title Value: 105.50

THE OVERSTREET UPDATE

X-MEN, THE (Uncanny ... #142 - on)
Sept, 1963 - Present
Marvel Comics Group

1- Origin and 1st app. The X-Men	900.00	H
2- 1st app. The Vanisher	345.00	H
3- 1st app. The Blob	168.00	H
4- 1st app. Quicksilver, Scarlet Witch	138.50	H
5	110.00	H
6-10	84.00	H
11-15, 12- Origin Prof. X	58.00	H
16-20	37.00	H
21-27, 99, 30	30.00	H
28- 1st app. The Banshee	34.00	H
31-37	21.00	H
38- Origin The X-Men feature begins	23.00	H
39, 40, 39-new costumes	19.00	H
41-49	15.00	
50, 51, Steranko c/a	21.00	
52	13.00	
53- 1st Barry Smith comic book work	22.00	
54, 55- Smith co-ver	18.00	
56-63, 65 Adams art	23.00	
64- 1st Sunfire	17.00	
66	10.50	
67-93	10.50	
94- New X-Men begin	115.00	-
95- Death of Thunderbird	40.00	
96-98	28.00	
98, 99- 30c variants, NOT RARE!	32.00	-
100- Old X-Men vs. New X-Men	30.00	-
101- Phoenix origin concludes	28.00	-
102-107	13.00	-
108- Byrne art begins in X-Men, see Marvel Team-Up #53 for 1st Byrne X-Men	30.00	
109- 1st Vindicator	25.00	
110, 111	15.00	
112-119	12.00	
120- 1st Alpha Flight	28.00	
121- Alpha Flight	30.00	
122-128	11.00	
129- 1st app. Kitty Pryde	13.00	
130- 1st app. Dazzler by Byrne	14.00	
131-135	10.00	
136, 138	8.50	
137- Phoenix dies, double size	11.00	
139- Wolverine's new costume	13.00	
140- Alpha Flight app.	18.00	
141	10.50	
142, 143 143-Last Byrne issue	6.30	
144-150	5.25	
151-157, 159-161, 163, 164	3.70	
162- Wolverine solo story	4.50	+ H
158- 1st app. Rogue in X-Men	4.20	H
165- Paul Smith art	3.30	H
166- Double size, Paul Smith art	4.20	H
167-170	3.20	H
171- Rogue joins The X-Men, see Avengers Annual 10	6.00	H
172-174	3.20	H
175- Double size	4.00	H
176-185	2.60	H
186- Double size	3.50	H
187-192, 194-199	2.50	H
193- Double size, special 100th app. New X-Men	4.00	H
200- Double size	5.00	+ H
201-209	3.00	+ H
210-213 Mutant Massacre	5.00	+ H
214-224	2.00	+ H
225-227 Fall Of The Mutants	4.00	+ H
228-241	1.75	+ H
242- Double size, Inferno tie-In	2.00	H
243-250	1.00	H
Annual 3 (2/80)	7.50	H
Annual 4 (11/80)	6.00	H
Annual 5 (10/81)	4.25	H
Annual 6 (11/82)	3.00	H
Annual 7, Annual 8	2.50	H
Annual 9- Art Adams art	7.00	H
Annual 10- Art Adams art	7.00	H
Annual 11	2.00	H
Annual 12 (1988) Evolutionary War	3.00	H
Annual 13 (89) Atlantis Attacks	2.00	H
Giant Size 1- 1st app. New X-Men	95.00	H
Giant Size 2	20.00	H
Special 1 (12/70)	20.00	H
Special 2 (11/71)	20.00	H
Title Value:	5294.45	

X-MEN/ALPHA FLIGHT
Jan, 1986 - No 2, Jan 1986 (mini-series)
Marvel Comics Group

1, 2	3.50	H
Title Value:	7.00	

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Apr, 1987-No. 4, July 1987 (1.50, color, mini-series)
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XYR - See Eclipse Graphic Album

YAKUZA
Eternity Comics- Cover Price

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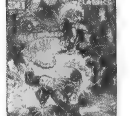
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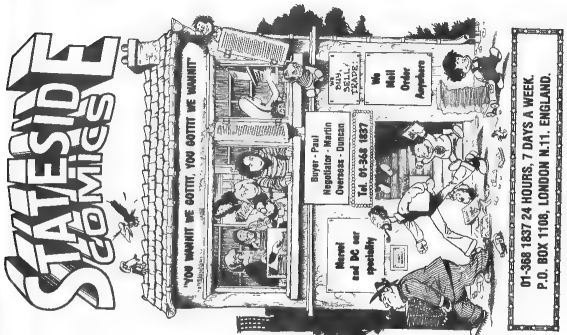
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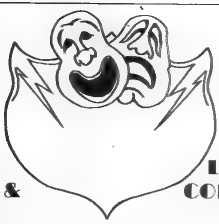

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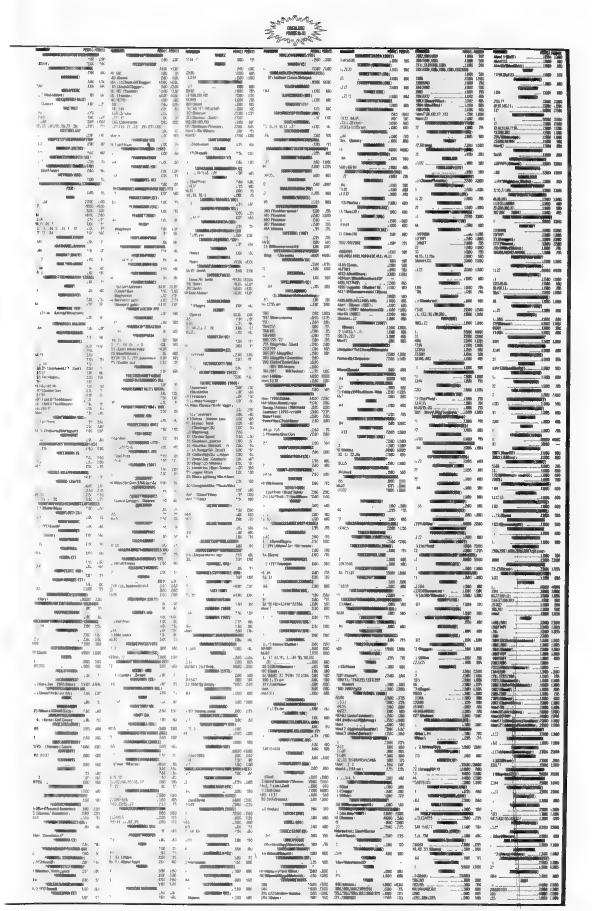

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23 Jeff Hardy art	2.00/1.50	50 Sci-Fi Issue	1.50/1.25	90 Sci-Fi Issue	2.50/2.00	130 Jeff Hardy art	3.50
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31 Jeff Hardy art	2.00/1.50	58 Sci-Fi Issue	1.50/1.25	98 Sci-Fi Issue	2.50/2.00	138 Jeff Hardy art	3.50
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33 Jeff Hardy art	2.00/1.50	60 Sci-Fi Issue	1.50/1.25	100 Sci-Fi Issue	2.50/2.00	140 Jeff Hardy art	3.50
34 Jeff Hardy art	2.00/1.50	61 Sci-Fi Issue	1.50/1.25	101 Sci-Fi Issue	2.50/2.00	141 Jeff Hardy art	3.50
35 Jeff Hardy art	2.00/1.50	62 Sci-Fi Issue	1.50/1.25	102 Sci-Fi Issue	2.50/2.00	142 Jeff Hardy art	3.50
36 Jeff Hardy art	2.00/1.50	63 Sci-Fi Issue	1.50/1.25	103 Sci-Fi Issue	2.50/2.00	143 Jeff Hardy art	3.50
37 Jeff Hardy art	2.00/1.50	64 Sci-Fi Issue	1.50/1.25	104 Sci-Fi Issue	2.50/2.00	144 Jeff Hardy art	3.50
38 Jeff Hardy art	2.00/1.50	65 Sci-Fi Issue	1.50/1.25	105 Sci-Fi Issue	2.50/2.00	145 Jeff Hardy art	3.50
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43 Jeff Hardy art	2.00/1.50	70 Sci-Fi Issue	1.50/1.25	110 Sci-Fi Issue	2.50/2.00	150 Jeff Hardy art	3.50
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32 #32	3.00/2.00
33 #33	3.00/2.00
34 #34	3.00/2.00
35 #35	3.00/2.00
36 #36	3.00/2.00
37 #37	3.00/2.00
38 #38	3.00/2.00
39 #39	3.00/2.00
40 #40	3.00/2.00
41 #41	3.00/2.00
42 #42	3.00/2.00
43 #43	3.00/2.00
44 #44	3.00/2.00
45 #45	3.00/2.00
46 #46	3.00/2.00
47 #47	3.00/2.00
48 #48	3.00/2.00
49 #49	3.00/2.00
50 #50	3.00/2.00
51 #51	3.00/2.00
52 #52	3.00/2.00
53 #53	3.00/2.00
54 #54	3.00/2.00
55 #55	3.00/2.00
56 #56	3.00/2.00
57 #57	3.00/2.00
58 #58	3.00/2.00
59 #59	3.00/2.00
60 #60	3.00/2.00
61 #61	3.00/2.00
62 #62	3.00/2.00
63 #63	3.00/2.00
64 #64	3.00/2.00
65 #65	3.00/2.00
66 #66	3.00/2.00
67 #67	3.00/2.00
68 #68	3.00/2.00
69 #69	3.00/2.00
70 #70	3.00/2.00
71 #71	3.00/2.00
72 #72	3.00/2.00
73 #73	3.00/2.00
74 #74	3.00/2.00
75 #75	3.00/2.00
76 #76	3.00/2.00
77 #77	3.00/2.00
78 #78	3.00/2.00
79 #79	3.00/2.00
80 #80	3.00/2.00
81 #81	3.00/2.00
82 #82	3.00/2.00
83 #83	3.00/2.00
84 #84	3.00/2.00
85 #85	3.00/2.00

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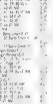

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